BEING
HANDICAPPED
ONE
HAS NO
PROSPECTS
THOUGH
ONE IS A
SURVIVOR
殘存亦沒
兵敗如山倒
BEING
A WARRIOR
ONE
TUMBLES
LIKE A
LANDSLIDE
AFTER
DEFEAT

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Scanner: Fifay
Translator: Blackbird
Editor: Bladedancer

Join us at Fifay.net

THIS YEAR'S WEATHER HAS BEEN VERY GOOD; IT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD HARVEST!
IF ONLY... SIGH...
LOOK AT THE RICH SOIL, IF ONLY...
I SAY, FARMER, PEOPLE NEED TO EAT; IF THERE'S NO ONE TO FARM,

CHAPTER 42
VERY IMPORTANT PERSON
WHAT IS THERE TO EAT?

IT'S NOT AS EASY AS YOU SAY
YOU MESSENGERS ARE TOO NAIVE
HA... HA...
YOU SAY PLOW AND THAT'S IT? HA HA HA HA!
MY LAND IS BEFORE ME, IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO FARM IT FOR ME
THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME IF YOU START SOWING IN TWO MONTHS?

SUAN ZAO, NOW TING JING COUNTY, HENAN PROVINCE.
LOOK, THE ENTIRE ARMY HAS TAKEN OVER SUAN ZAO, THEY HAVEN'T MOVED IN TWO OR THREE YEARS!
IF YOU THINK IT'S TILLABLE, THE SUN MIGHT AS WELL RISE FROM THE WEST

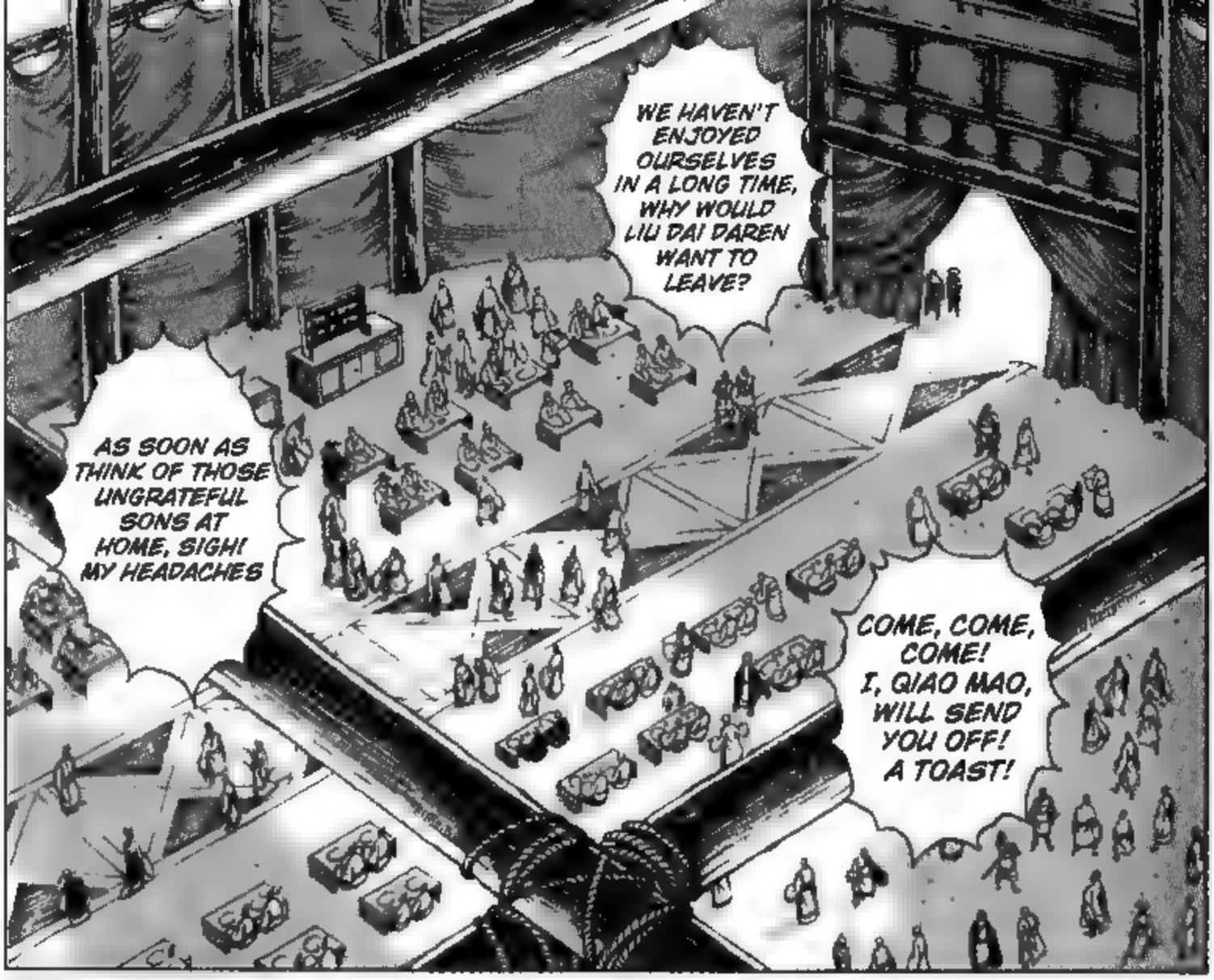
January: Guandong feudal territories united their armies to dispose of Dong Zhou. Every feudal lord amassed troops numbering in tens of thousands stationed at Suan Zao.
OUT OF THE WAY, RATIONS CARAVAN COMING THROUGH!
RATIONS? I THOUGHT SOME SORT OF VIP WAS COMING.
—WENCHOU—
IF THAT VIP DIDN'T HAVE THE EMPEROR'S CARAVAN CHAUFFEURING HIM, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T SHOW UP AT ALL.

HEY NEW GUY! THERE'S A LETTER FROM HEBEI FOR YUAN FANG GONGZI
THAT IS GONGZI'S SEAL, THAT'S FINE
IT'S ALMOST DARK, LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT COMING; MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LET THEM...
THE VIP IS COMING SOON; STAND AT ATTENTION!

I, ZHANG HE, WILL NEVER BE CARELESS!
WE CANNOT ALLOW THE TROOPS' SPIRIT TO WANE. THESE ARE GONGZI'S ORDERS.

SUCH A LARGE WELCOME PARTY; THAT PERSON MUST BE SPECIAL
OUR NUMBERS ARE STRONG; THEY'RE ALL ELITE SOLDIERS,
BUT?
TO DESTROY DONG ZHOU WOULD BE AS EASY AS LIFTING A FINGER, BUT...
THEY PLAN STRATEGY ALL DAY
HOW DOES THIS SCENE LOOK TO THE GENERAL?
HOW DO YOU WIN WITHOUT FINALIZING A DECISION?

(DRINKING)
GURU
GURU
Yanzhou Inspector
[Liu Dai]
COME, QIAO MAO DAREN, ON BEHALF OF LIU DAI DAREN, I TOAST YOU!
I NEVER KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE GREAT THINGS LIKE THIS ON THE BATTLEFIELD!
THIS...


WE HAVEN'T ENJOYED OURSELVES IN A LONG TIME, WHY WOULD LIU DAI DAREN WANT TO LEAVE?
AS SOON AS THINK OF THOSE UNGRATEFUL SONS AT HOME, SIGH! MY HEADACHES
COME, COME, COME! I, QIAO MAO, WILL SEND YOU OFF! A TOAST!

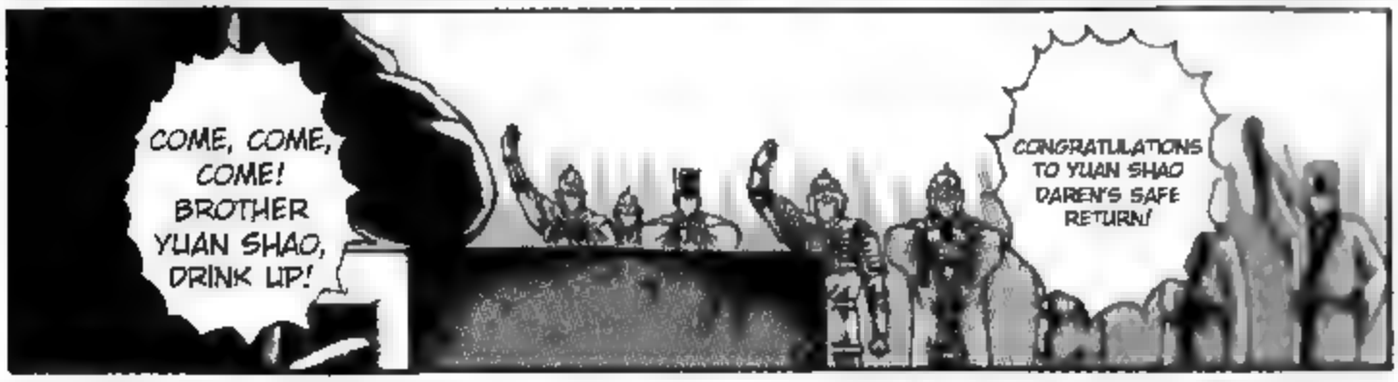
WHY ARE THERE WOMEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD?

WH... WHAT?

LIU DAI DAREN FELT GUILTY ABOUT GOING HOME, SO HE ORDERED US TO ENTERTAIN THE TROOPS.

WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?

A TOAST TO EVERYONE!
Shanyang Inspector [Yuan Qian]
Yuzhou Inspector [Kong Xin]
BROTHER GONGSUN, BETTER LEARN TO BE MORE LIKE YUAN QIAN AND PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW
KONG XIN, WHAT DO YOU THINK LIU DAI IS THINKING?
Beiping Grand Administrator [Gongsun Zan]


COME, COME, COME! BROTHER YUAN SHAO, DRINK UP!
CONGRATULATIONS TO YUAN SHAO DAREN'S SAFE RETURN!

[Yuan Shao]
[Yuan Shang]
I APPRECIATE AND TOAST YOU ALL.

CAN'T YOU TELL?
THEY HAVEN'T DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION. WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE THINKING?
THIS IS A FARCE
EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF DONG ZHOU'S RISE TO POWER, SO THEY FORMED AN ALLIANCE
NOW THAT DONG ZHOU HAS ESCAPED FROM LUOYANG, THESE FOXES HAVE FINALLY SHOWN THEIR TRUE SIDE
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SQUAT!
DON'T YOU DARE THINK BECAUSE THAT YOU'RE A TRUSTED AIDE TO GONGZI THAT YOU CAN UTTER SUCH NONSENSE!

THIS BANQUET ALLIANCE IS ONLY FOR PERSONAL GAIN
THE REAL GOAL IS TO GET RID OF EACH OTHER
YOU ARE NEW HERE
DO YOU KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES FOR LOWERING MORALE ARE?

(UNSHEATHING SWORD)
TSIN
NO ONE WILL BE DEVOURED. I JUST KNOW SOMEONE'S HEAD WILL FALL
CARE TO GUESS WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO BE DEVOURED?

FIRST, IT'LL BE THOSE LORDS WHO CONTRIBUTE ONLY RATIONS AND NO TROOPS.
HE THOUGHT BY NOT COMMITTING TROOPS, HE COULD MAINTAIN HIS POWER, BUT IN REALITY, HE'S THE ONE WHO LOSES OUT THE MOST
BUT DON'T LET THESE PEOPLE FOOL YOU! THEY HAVE IT ALL PLANNED OUT; AS SOON AS THEIR ALLIES ARE FULLY COMMITTED IN BATTLE, THEY WILL STOP SENDING FOOD AND STRAND THEM ON THE FRONTLINES TO DIE.
Dongjun Inspector [Qiao Mao]

THEN, IT'LL BE THOSE LOYAL AND HONORABLE LORDS WHO LAUNCHED THEIR ATTACK FIRST. IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS AT THE FRONT...
BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T DECIDED UPON A MILITARY PLAN, NO ONE WILL GO AND HELP. IT BECOMES A SUICIDE MISSION
MY LORD IS NOT THAT KIND OF MAN. DID YOU NOT SEE HIM TAKE HIS TROOPS INTO LUOYANG TO RESCUE THE EMPEROR?
DID HE INFORM ANYONE OF THE ATTACK?
YUAN SHAO LAUNCHED HIS TROOPS BECAUSE IT WAS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE LUOYANG; ANYONE WOULD'VE JUMPED AT THAT CHANCE
YOU'RE A MYSTERIOUS MESSENGER
GENERAL, YOU ARE A RIGHTEOUS MAN, BUT YOU'VE CHOSEN THE WRONG MASTER

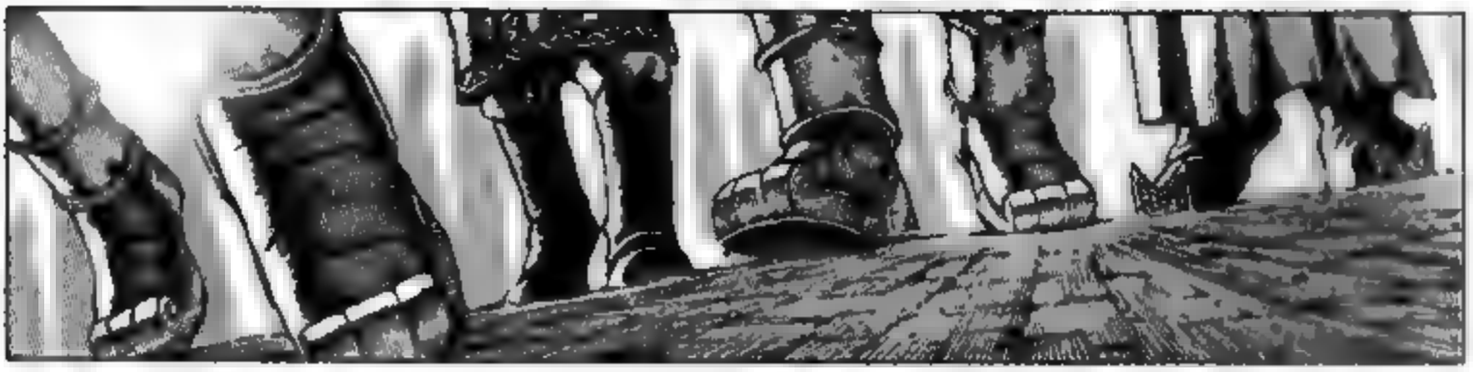
THE MESSAGE I BROUGHT IS FOR A FARMER WHO IS WILLING TO CULTIVATE THE LAND
(RUNNING) TA TA
[Yuan Fang]
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE YOU BROUGHT FOR ME?

HE IS LEADING HIS OWN TROOPS TO ATTACK DONG ZHOU
REPORTING! SUN JIAN FOUND OUT WE HAVEN'T DECIDED UPON A PLAN...
ADD THAT ONE FROM THE DAY BEFORE, GOOD NEWS COMES IN PAIRS
CHIEF CLERK, THERE'S ONE LESS OPPONENT AMONGST THE LORDS
TO SUN JIAN DAREN'S SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BANDITS!
EVERYONE, LET'S TOAST SUN JIAN DAREN!

ENOUGH! YOU'VE WRITTEN YOUR OWN DEATH SENTENCE!
THESE PEOPLE WOULD JUST AS SOON SEND THIS LOYAL LORD TO HIS DEATH
LIES
HE'S ONLY HALF RIGHT. THE TREACHERY OF THESE MEN HAS LEFT A BAD IMPRESSION OF OUR LORD

OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. YUAN SHAO HAS ONLY ONE EXCUSE
TO ELIMINATE DONG ZHOU, HE MUST ALSO ELIMINATE THE IN-FIGHTING IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE HAN DYNASTY

THEY HAVE NO DESIRE TO SAVE THE COUNTRY; THESE PEOPLE ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THIEVES.
BUT THE TRAITOR HASN'T BEEN REMOVED, AND WE'RE FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES, WHICH PLAYS INTO DONG ZHOU'S HAND
IT'S SHAMEFUL THAT YOU LET TWO LOYAL SUBJECTS GO TO THEIR DEATHS WHILE YOU STOOD IDLY BY



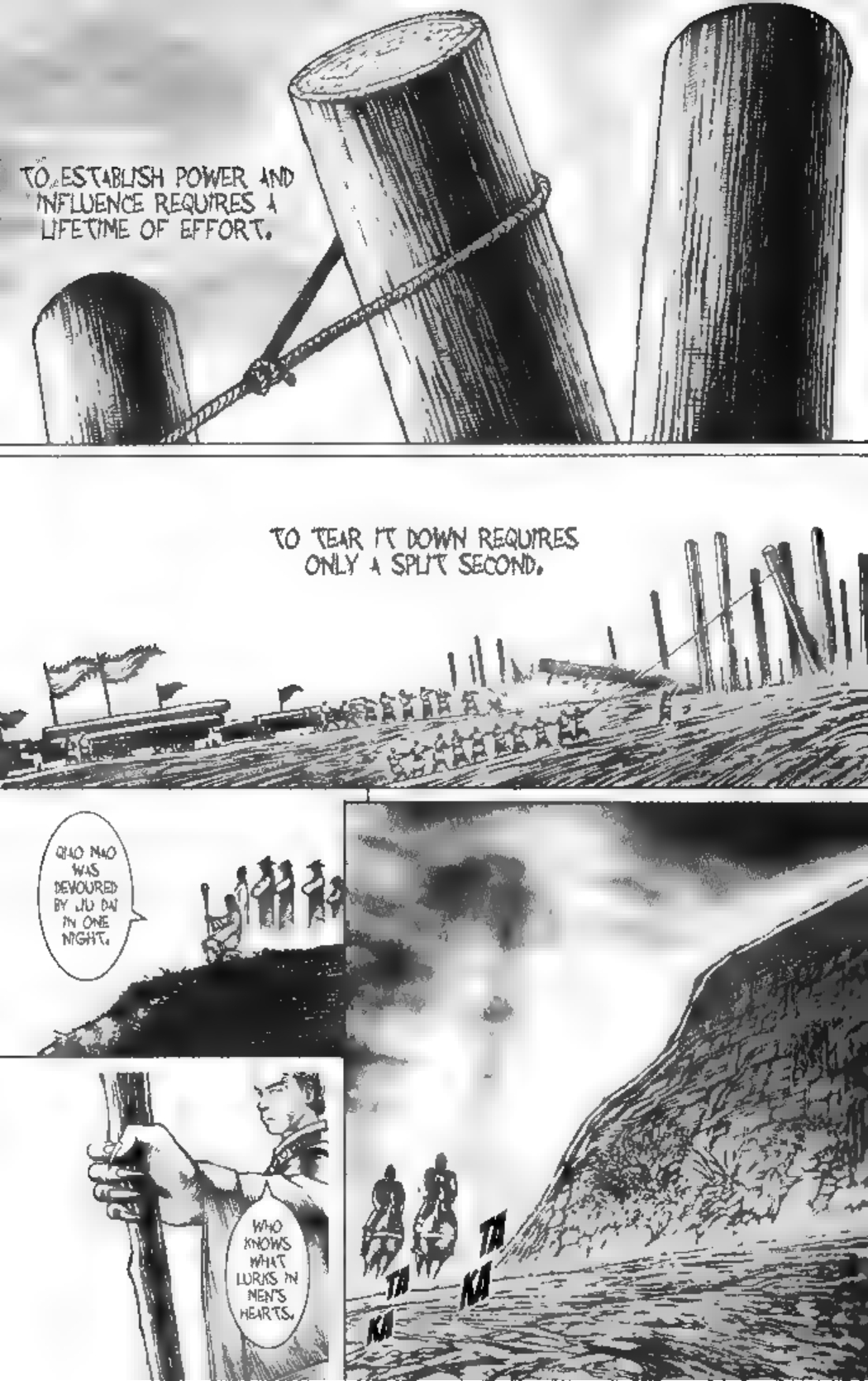
IT'S ALMOST DARK, HE'S HASN'T ARRIVED YET
DID MY LORD CHECK THE LETTER? HAS IT BEEN RESCHEDULED?
IS THE VIP HERE?

Henei-jun Mayor [Wang Kuang]
HE MADE US WASTE A DAY WAITING FOR HIM
FAMOUS PEOPLE WOULD KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE; IT TAKES QUITE AN EFFORT TO MAKE THEM APPEAR!
THE NERVE OF THIS GUY! EVEN YUAN SHAO IS...
THE HEIR APPAR-ENT?
I'VE HEARD THAT YUAN SHAO INVITED SOMEONE WHOM ALL THE LORDS WOULD GAZE AT INTENTLY.
SECRETARIAT, WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW, I'VE JUST ARRIVED
I'M SAYING, THE MAN WHOSE SKILLS EQUAL ZHANG ZHIFANG'S HAS EMERGED
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, OR WATCH YOUR HEAD
ZHANG ZHIFANG... YOU MEAN *GAOZU'S MILITARY STRATE-GIST **ZHANG LIANG? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY IT EARLIER? WHERE'S OUR LORD?
OUR LORD'S ALREADY DRUNK!
*GAOZU OR GAODI, THE FIRST EMPEROR OF THE HAN DYNASTY.
**HTTP://WWW.ANSWERS.COM/TOPIC/ZHANG-LIANG

SECOND BROTHER, YOU'RE STILL BEING STUBBORN...
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ABSOLUTE LOYALTY AND JUSTICE IN THE WORLD
RIGHT IS RIGHT AND WRONG IS WRONG.
WHAT? YOU'RE THE ONE WE'RE EXPECTING TODAY...

YOU PURPOSELY DISGUISED YOURSELF AS A MESSENGER TO SPY ON US?
SO YOU'VE FOUND YOUR FARMER?
YOU HAVE AN AMAZING ABILITY TO FORESEE THINGS. UNLESS YOU COULDN'T SEE THAT HIS ARMY WOULD BE ANNIHILATED?
AT LEAST HE HAS A DESIRE TO CULTIVATE.
EIGHT GENIUSES' XUN YU WILL DECLINE FIRST BROTHER'S GENEROUS INVITATION

JANUARY 18TH, WATER-MIRROR'S EIGHT GENIUSES' XUN YU DECLINED YUAN SHAO'S INVITATION
TWO MONTHS LATER, WITH SUAN ZAO'S RATIONS SPENT, ALL FEUDAL LORDS FOLDED CAMP AND WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.
ON HIS WAY BACK TO YANZHOU, FEUDAL LORD LIU DAI ATTACKED QIAO MAO'S BASE AT DONGJUN. QIAO MAO DIED IN BATTLE AFTER DEPLETING HIS RATIONS
AND I EXPECT A HARVEST!


TO ESTABLISH POWER AND INFLUENCE REQUIRES A LIFETIME OF EFFORT.
TO TEAR IT DOWN REQUIRES ONLY A SPLIT SECOND.
QIAO NAO WAS DEVOURED BY JU DAI IN ONE NIGHT.
WHO KNOWS WHAT LURKS IN MEN'S HEARTS.
TA
KA
TA
KA

CH 43 A HUMANITARIAN IS INVINCIBLE

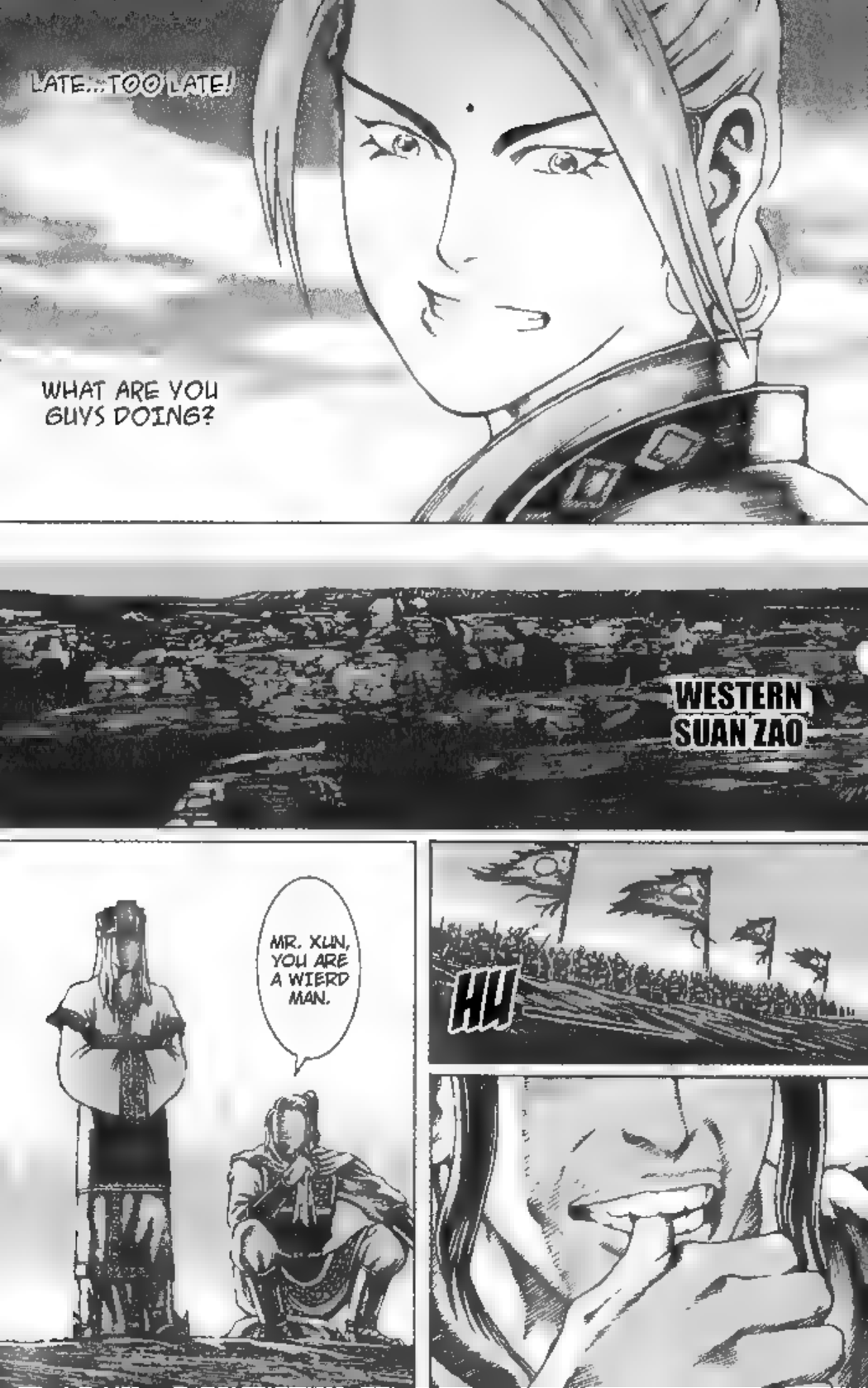
SO IT HAS FINALLY CONCLUDED...
PROFESSOR (WATER MIRROR)
SIR, THEY'RE INDEED WITHDRAW-ING!
THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE EXISTS IN NAME ONLY.
LIEUTENANT, TURN THE RATION CARTS THIS WAY!

[GENG WU]
MY LORD, LOOK OVER THERE.
GENG WU, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
JIZHOU INSPECTOR
[HAN FU]
THOSE ARE THE REFUGEES ALWAYS AROUND THE ENCAMPMENT; THEY'RE HOPING FOR LEFTOVERS.
A HUMANITARIAN IS INVINCIBLE?
WH... WHAT?
MY LORD, A HUMANITARIAN IS INVINCIBLE!
I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THEM SOME OF OUR RATIONS.

HAN FU JAREN IS GIVING AWAY FOOD!
HURRY EVERYONE!
COME! COME QUICK!
MILITARY ADVISOR [SHEN BEI]
TSK TSK TSK!
LOOK, SHEN BEI I CAN'T BELIEVE HAN FU STILL HAD SO MUCH OF HIS RATIONS LEFT
OUR LORD DOES ENJOY HAVING A GOOD REPUTATION
SINCE WE'RE WITHDRAWING EXTRA RATIONS WILL BE A BURDEN. WHY NOT USE IT FOR CHARITY? BUY SOME LOYALTY FROM THE MASSES AND BUILD UP YOUR REPUTATION.
YES, SIR!
QUICK, BRING OUR RATION CARTS AROUND!

DON'T RUSH! EVERYONE LINE UP PROPERLY!
REFUGEE RELIEF, SAN GONG-ZI HAS STRENGTHENED THE LORD'S REPUTATION.
SHANG-ER DID A GOOD JOB, LEARNING TO BUY PEOPLE'S LOYALTY
SCOUTS HAVE JUST REPORTED THAT DONG ZHOU HAS DEFEATED BOTH CAO CAO AND SUN JIAN. BOTH HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES.
TO THINK THEY WERE SOME FORMIDABLE CHARACTERS. THEY COULDN'T TAKE A BEATING AFTER ALL.

WEN CHOU.
YES, SIR!
IF WE WERE TO COUNT UP ALL THE HEROES IN THE WORLD THERE WOULD JUST BE YOU, MY LORD.
VICTORIES AND DEFEATS ARE COMMON-PLACE FOR SOLDIERS.
HEROES WILL ALWAYS HAVE TO EDURE THE CRESTS AND TROUGHS
THE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SUN FAMILY HAS BEEN ANNULLED!
AT LEAST, IN BUYING PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND MINDS, HE'S STILL NOT UP TO SHANG-ER
TELL FANG-ER THAT HE'S STILL YOUNG, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THROUGH THINGS.
REMEMBER, YUAN SHAO DAREN DONATED THIS!
REMEMBER EVERYONE!


LATE...TOO LATE!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
WESTERN SUAN ZAO
MR. XUN, YOU ARE A WIERD MAN.
HU

MY LORD'S INFLUENCE IS AT ITS WEAKEST, AND YET YOU STILL WISH TO JOIN HIM. .
VICTORY AND DEFEAT ARE COMMON-PLACE, EVEN SO, WE WILL GET STRONG SOON
[XUN YU]
GENERAL! OUR LORD HAS RETURNED!
SOON? JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ONE OF THE WATER-MIRROR GENIUSES DON'T THINK THAT
[LI DIAN]

HU
HU
VICTORY IS VICTORY DEFEAT IS DEFEAT
SECRETARIAT, FOR MORALE'S SAKE, EXAGGERATE DONG ZHOU'S ARMY SIZE.
YES, SIR!
ONLY A FEW MEN LEFT, DONG ZHOU IS NOT AN EASY FOE!

XUN YU CONGRATU-LATES CAO CAO DAREN ON A TIMELY DEFEAT!
I WANTED TO KNOW WHY ALL THE WARLORDS WISH TO GET THIER HANDS ON THE EIGHT GENILISES, SO

I'VE FOLLOWED YOUR DIRECTIONS AND RETURNED BATTERED.
[CAO CAO]
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT HOW BRAVELY DAREN EMPLOYS HIS MEN I WOULD DIE WITHOUT ANY REGRETS.

GOOD, WE'LL MAKE YOU DIE WITHOUT REGRETS.
BRAT, WHY ARE YOU INTENTIONALLY HUMILIATING OUR LORD?
ON BEHALF OF OUR LORD, XIAHOU DUN THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GESTURE
[XIAHOU DUN]
BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

[XIAHOU YUAN]
[CAO HONG]
[CAO REN]
BROTHER DUN, YOU'RE INTRIGUED BY THIS KID!
I WANT TO SEE HIS ABILITIES.

THOSE PEOPLE.
THE REFUGEES ARE BEGGING FOR FOOD AGAIN.
AH-MAN, THE EIGHT GENIUSES' SKILLS ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED.
I THOUGHT THIS KID WAS SOMETHING; EVEN I KNOW HOW TO BUY PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND MINDS WITH FOOD.
*AH-MAN, CAO CAO'S XIAO-MING.
NOTE: XIAO-MING IS NICKNAME OR NAME USED BY CLOSE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES

WA
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GET RID OF THE KID TOO.
YUAN! GET SOME FOOD AND GET RID OF THEM.
I KNOW, OUR GREAT LORD WIL. SHOW HIS SYMPATHETIC SIDE!
GENERAL XIAHOU, PLEASE TELL THE PEOPLE .

WHA... WHAT? BE CAREFUL THEY'LL HEAR YOU!
TELL THEM THE RATIONS ARE RESERVED FOR BATTLE
WHY DO WE NEED TO COME AND BEG?
FWUMP
TELL THEM TO GO HOME!

!
SINCE THE GUANGDONG ALLIANCE WAS FORMED, WE ANTICIPATED THAT THE FIGHTING WOULD BE QUELLED QUICKLY SO ALL THE REFUGEES COULD GO BACK TO REBUILDING THIER HOMES.
WHAT "PULLING OUT BECAUSE OF DEPLETED RATIONS"? AND THEY LEAVE US SO MUCH FOOD.
BUT ALL THESE LORDS NEVER TOOK ACTION. NO ONE WANTED TO TAKE HIS ARMY AGAINST DONG ZHOU. TODAY, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY PULL OUT OF SUAN ZAO
SO MUCH FOOD AND SO MANY TROOPS. YOU COULD'VE EASILY WIPED OUT DONG ZHOU AND BROUGHT PEACE TO THE LAND..
YOU HAVE REASON TO BE ANGRY, BUT THIS DOES NOT CONCERN US.

TODAY WE WITNESS A HERO WHO'S WILLING TO RETURN TO SUAN ZAO AND FIGHT AGAIN!
WRONG! CAO CAO DAREN IS WILLING TO FIGHT DONG ZHOU! HE WAS DEFEATED, YET HE STILL HAS NOT RETURNED TO HIS BASE.
OUR RATIONS ARE RESERVED FOR WAR! WE WILL NOT SHARE THEM WITH YOU! SINCE YOU KNOW THAT, YOU SHOULD GO HOME!
DAREN! THE WORLD IS IN CHAOS; A SACK OF RICE IS NOT ENOUGH TO BUY HEARTS AND MINDS!
RATHER THAN STARVE TO DEATH IN WARTIME...

WE WOULD PLEDGE OUR VERY LAST ENERGY TO AN ABLE MAN AND END THE TURMOIL!
CAO CAO DAREN, PLEASE TAKE US IN!
WE ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR CAO DAREN!
CAO DAREN!

HE EVEN KNOWS HOW TO GAUGE THE PEOPLE'S MINDS!
THOSE WHO RESPOND TO CHANGE WILL PROSPER, THOSE WHO DO NOT WILL PERISIH
THIS KID ANTICIPATES THE MOST ADVANTAGEIOUS TIME TO ACT
THE EIGHT GENIUSES TRUELY DO LIVE UP TO THIER NAME!
DURING OUR DIREST TIME, WE WERE ABLE TO RECRUIT SO MANY MEN WITHOUT CONSCRIPTION, RATIONS OR MONEY.
THEY SAY THAT AFTER THE YELLOW TURBAN LEADER ZHANG JIAO DIED, HIS FOLLOWERS GATHERED IN THE SUAN ZAO REGION.
WHAT'S MORE AMAZING IS THEY DON'T NEED TRAINING.
THESE PEOPLE AREN'T YOUR USUAL REFUGEES.

OF COURSE, THIS LITTLE FRACTION HAS JOINED US.
THE REMAINING YELLOW TURBANS SCATTERED AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL SOON FLOCK TO US AS WELL.
THAT WILL ADD UP TO BE A TRULY ASTOUNDING NUMBER!
IF THIS KID WERE ZHANG JIAO, THE WORLD WOULD BE HIS FOR THE TAKING.
HE USED JUST A FEW WORDS TO SWAY A CROWD, CHANGING OUR FORTUNES.

BUT...
HE'S OUR ZHANG LIANG!
*STRATEGIST WHO HELPED FOUND THE HAN DYNASTY

IN THE END, ALL THE LORDS WERE TRYING TO BUY PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND MINDS.
REPUTATION AND REALITY ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
IF THEY DIDN'T DO IT, THEY WOULD DAMAGE THIER REPUTATIONS!
STUDENTS WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OVERALL, THERE ARE ONLY TWO MEN WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE.
ONE IS SUN JIAN, AND THE OTHER IS CAO CAO.
WE UNDERSTAND THIS POINT OF THIS EXCURSION.

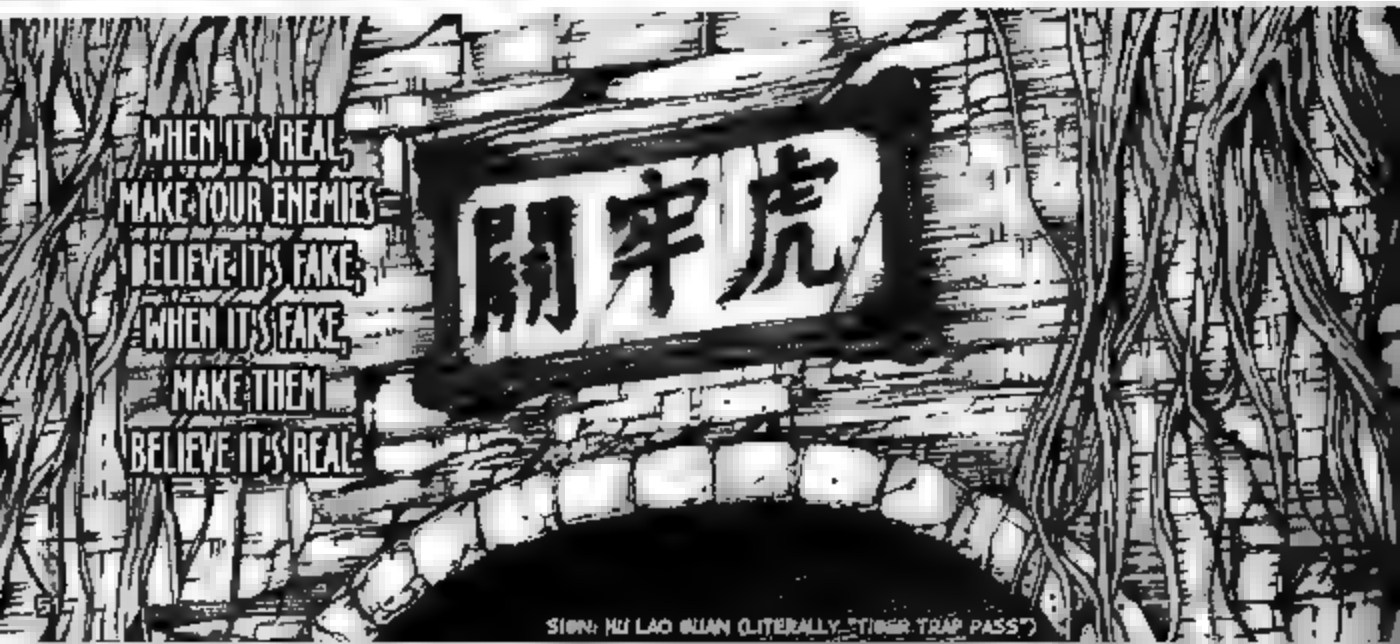
THAT'S RIGHT! IN FRONT OF YOU THERE ARE ONLY TWO MASTERS.
IT WOULD JUST AID THE WICKED AND BRING TURMOIL TO THE LAND.
MILITARY ADVISORS HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY; THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS SOLDIERS ARE IN YOUR HANDS. IF YOU PLEDGE YOURSELF TO THE WRONG MASTER...
XUN HAS ANTICIPATED THIS WELL. AND TOOK THE CORRECT FIRST STEP. AND YOU...

THERE ARE MANY ABLE MEN IN THE WORLD...
HOW COULD THE MASTER DEDUCE THAT THERE COULD ONLY BE JUST TWO LORDS?
WE UNDER-STAND.
VERY GOOD.
AND YOU THREE?

ALL WARFARE IS BASED ON DECEPTION.
(SUN TZU'S ART OF WAR - LAYING PLANS)
* SEE NOTES

WHEN WE ARE NEAR,
WE MUST MAKE THE ENEMY BELIEVE
WE ARE FAR AWAY; WHEN FAR AWAY,
WE MUST MAKE HIM BELIEVE WE ARE NEAR.

WHEN USING OUR FORCES,
WE MUST SEEM INACTIVE;
WHEN ABLE TO ATTACK,
WE MUST SEEM UNABLE;


WHEN IT'S REAL,
MAKE YOUR ENEMIES
BELIEVE IT'S FAKE;
WHEN IT'S FAKE,
MAKE THEM
BELIEVE IT'S REAL.
關牢虎
SIGN: HU LAO GUAN (LITERALLY "TIGER TRAP PASS")

第四十四回 兵法之詭道

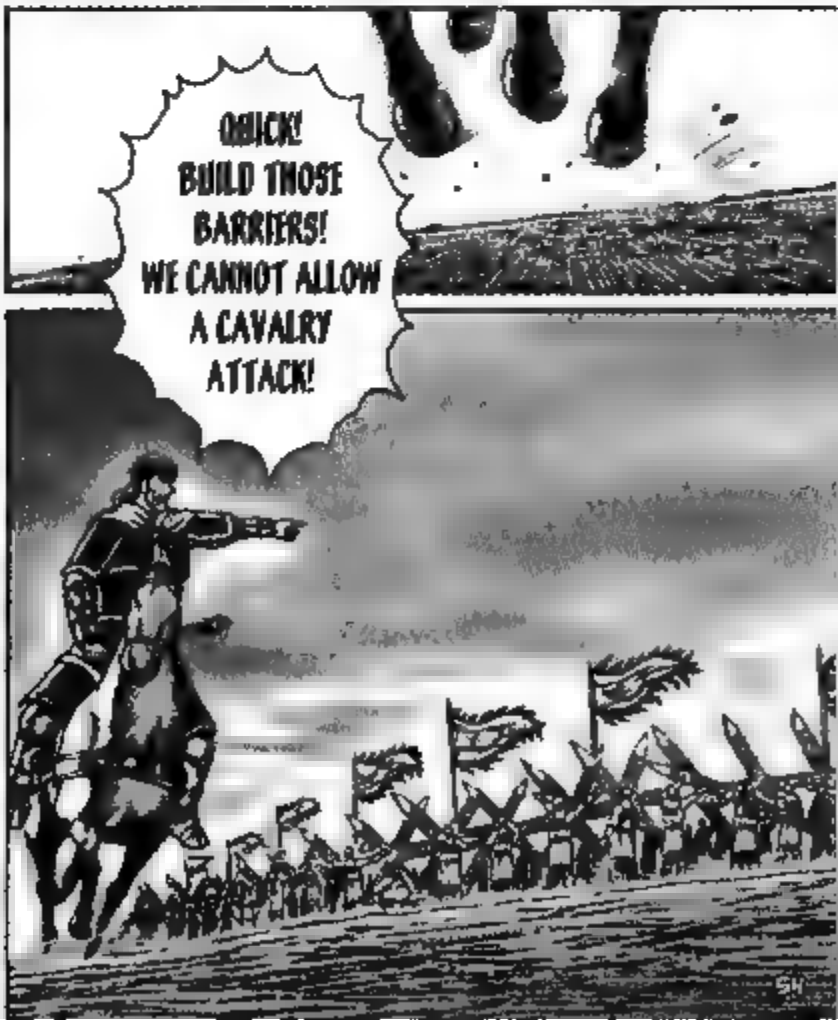
CHAPTER 44 "CUNNING IN THE ART OF WAR"

SCANNER FIFAY TRANSLATOR BLACKBIRD PROOFREADER ESTAR

EDITOR MORRIGAN QUALITY CONTROL FIFAY & REN

ARCHERS READY!
GARRISON TROOPS READY!
THE ENEMY HAS BEGUN FORMATION!
ONE EMPTY CITY BECOMES THE TIGER TRAP; ONE CITY RELOCATED IS A SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE
HUA XIONG
LUU BU
CHENG XIA YI JU* IS NOT JUST A ONE-TIME STRATEGY!

FLAGS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT: YUAN, GONGSUN, WANG



FIVE LORDS HAVE DEPLETED THEIR RATIONS AND REFUSED TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS.
WHAT IS THE STATUS ON REINFORCEMENTS?
THEY ARE STEALTHY LIKE THE WIND XIUANG RED HARE TROOPS ARE FRIGHTENING!

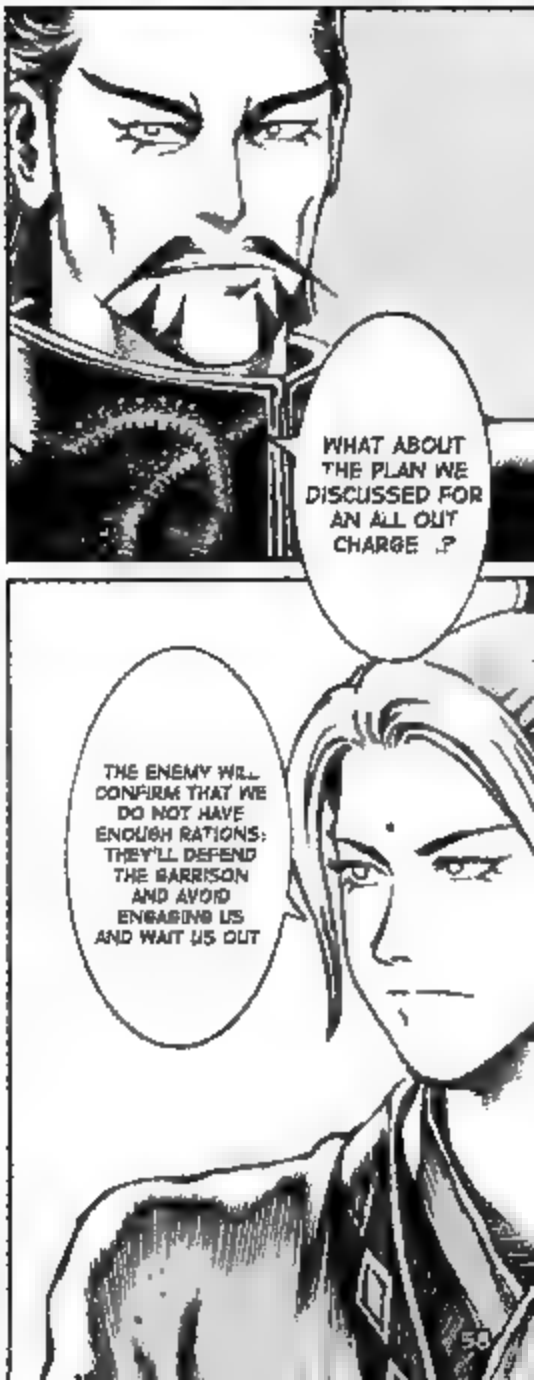
IN MY OPINION, WE HAVE TO ALIGN OUR FORMATIONS AND MAKE ONE FINAL CHARGE.
MOUNTAINS SURROUND US; THE ENEMY IS ON HIGHER GROUND GUARDING THE EXIT. ACCORDING TO *THE ART OF WAR*, WE'RE IN A DEAD ZONE!
IT WAS ALL ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN, UNFORTUNATELY I COULD NOT STOP IT IN TIME
THEIR GOAL IS TO *DESTROY* US WITHOUT USING A SINGLE *SOLDIER*
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN DARENS WILL HAVE FALLEN INTO THE TRAP

WHAT YOU MEAN IS THAT THE REFUGEES WERE DIRECTED TO US BY DONG ZHUO?
THE REFUGEES?
WE WILL BE DEFEATED BY THE DEPLETION OF RATIONS?
THEY USED THE REFUGEES TO DEPLETE OUR RATIONS; EVERYONE'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TRADED US ONLY TEN DAYS WORTH OF RATIONS.
HU LAO GUAN IS EASY TO DEFEND AND HARD TO ATTACK AS LONG AS THEY ARRIVED A DAY EARLY AHEAD OF US.
THEY COULD USE THE TERRAIN AGAINST US, WAITING FOR US TO DEPLETE OUR SUPPLIES, ONCE THE MORALE GOES THEY WILL EASILY CRUSH US.

EVEN IF THE ENEMY DOESN'T GIVE CHASE, CROSSING THE MOUNTAINS REQUIRES MORE THAN TEN DAYS; WITHOUT ENOUGH RATIONS, IT WOULD ALSO BE A DEFEAT!
IF WE CHOSE TO RETREAT INSTEAD, HU LAO MOUNTAINS ARE TREACHEROUS.

BUT WHEN THE TRUTH IS REVEALED, OUR MORALE IS ALREADY ON THE EDGE, WE WISH TO FIGHT BUT ARE UNABLE; WE WISH TO AVOID A FIGHT BUT LACK THE NECESSARY RATIONS; IF WE DON'T FIGHT WE WILL ANGER OUR TROOPS; THIS IS THE PINNACLE OF THE ART OF WAR

WHEN FAR AWAY, MAKE THE ENEMY BELIEVE WE ARE NEAR, WHEN NEAR, MAKE HIM BELIEVE WE ARE FAR AWAY ARE THEY GOING TO CHANG'AN OR ARE THEY GOING TO ATTACK US? WHEN IT'S REAL, MAKE YOUR ENEMIES BELIEVE IT'S FAKE, WHEN IT'S FAKE, MAKE HIM BELIEVE IT'S REAL. THIS IS CUNNING IN THE ART OF WAR

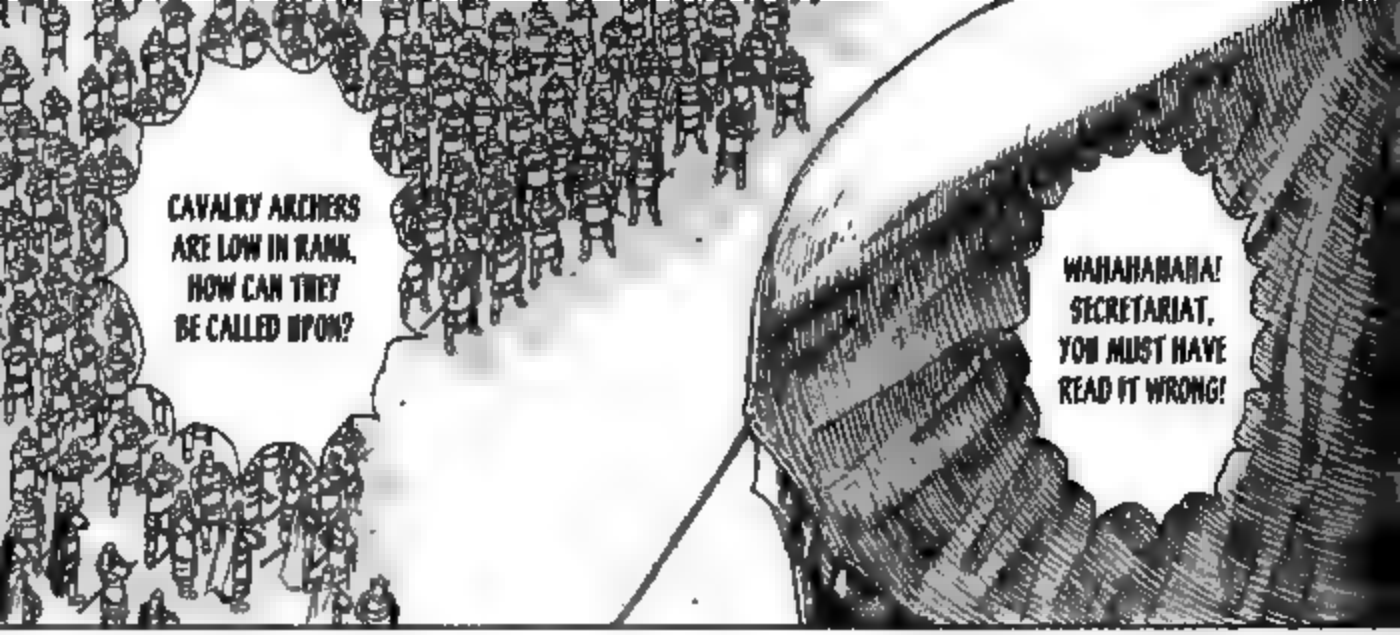

WHAT ABOUT THE PLAN WE DISCUSSED FOR AN ALL OUT CHARGE ..?
THE ENEMY WILL CONFIRM THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH RATIONS; THEY'LL DEFEND THE GARRISON AND AVOID ENGAGING US AND WAIT US OUT

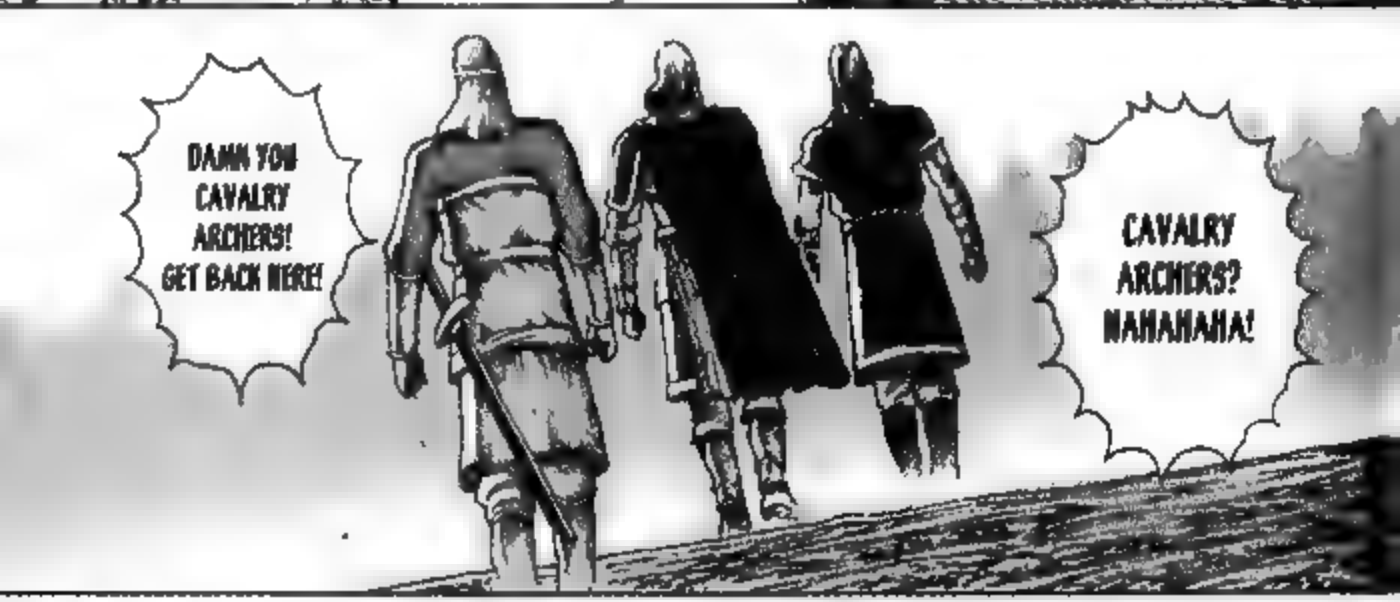
THEN AREN'T... AREN'T WE...
WITHIN THE CAMP THERE ARE REPORTS OF DESERTERS
SADLY, WE HAVEN'T BEEN PUSHED TO THE EDGE YET!
SUN TZU SAYS: "BIRDS AND BEASTS WHEN BROUGHT TO BAY WILL USE THEIR CLAWS AND TEETH."
SEE NOTES
YUAN SHU ARMY YU SHE
KONG YOU ARMY HUANG WEI
WANG KUAN ARMY CHEN AI
YUAN QIAN ARMY LU DENG

WHEN WILL IT BE OUR TURN?
GENERALS, PLEASE ENTER THE TENT!
I HEARD IF YOU COMPLETE THIS MISSION, YOU WILL BE PROMOTED TO YOUR OWN COMMAND!
NO WONDER ALL THE TOP WARRIORS ARE BEING CALLED
I HEARD THIS TIME THE OPPONENTS ARE LUU BU AND HUA XIONG
BIG BROTHER, THEY FINALLY CALLED UPON YOU!
GONGSUN ZAN ARMY DENG XING
I WILL NOT LET EVERYONE DOWN!
CONGRATULATIONS, BIG BROTHER!
HERE'S TO A SUCCESSFUL MISSION, BIG BROTHER DENG!

THE NEXT ONE IS GONGSUN ZAN ON LOAN TO YUAN SHAO
SECRETARIAT, ARE WE ON THE LIST?
啊!
SFX: AH! (GASP)
IS THIS WRITTEN WRONG? BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY YUAN FANG DAREN'S HAND-WRITING!
READ IT, LET'S NOT OFFEND YUAN SHAO DAREN
ON LOAN? MUST BE SOME IMPORTANT PERSON?
GONGSUN ZAN ON LOAN TO YUAN SHAO CAVALRY ARCHERS,
咳!
SFX: KEUH! (COUGH)

ZHANG FEI
CAVALRY ARCHERS LIU BEI! BIG BROTHER, IT'S OUR TURN!
LIU BEI
GUAN YU
IMPOSSIBLE!
CAVALRY ARCHERS? LOW RANKING SOLDIERS ?


CAVALRY ARCHERS ARE LOW IN RANK. HOW CAN THEY BE CALLED UPON?
WAHAHAHAHA! SECRETARIAT, YOU MUST HAVE READ IT WRONG!


DAMN YOU CAVALRY ARCHERS! GET BACK HERE!
CAVALRY ARCHERS? WAHAHAHA!

LOOKS LIKE YUAN SHAO DIDN'T FORGET HOW WE SAVED HIM

DAMN IT! THESE PEOPLE ALL LOOK DOWN ON US.

THIRD BROTHER, DON'T MIND THEM.

BIG BROTHER, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH
THE GAP IN RANK IS TOO VAST..

CAVALRY ARCHERS? THINGS HAVE BECOME INTERESTING
BIG BROTHER, I FOUND A BENCH
BIG BROTHER, SIT SIT SIT!
DO YOU THINK YOU DESERVE *THIS SEAT*, CAVALRY ARCHER?

GET OUT OF HERE!
ONLY LOW RANKING MEN STAND.
DAMN YOU!

SFX: AH (GASP)
I DON'T KNOW BY WHAT MERIT YOU GOT IN HERE.
TO GET INTO THIS CIRCLE REQUIRES REAL POWER IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, YOU'D BETTER GET OUT NOW!
YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN ON US? OKAY! I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU!

LOUD-MOUTH MORON, ANYONE HERE CAN TAKE AWAY YOUR LOWLY LIFE
YOU THINK CAN BEAT PAN FENG DAREN? DREAM ON, CLOWN!
HE'S THE BLOOD BROTHER OF THE MAN WHO FRAUDULENTLY CLAIMS TO BE PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY
BROTHER LU, DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS?
WHAT FRAUD? MY BIG BROTHER IS ZHONGSAN KING JING'S DESCENDANT HOW DARE YOU
KING JING'S DESCENDANT? BUT YOUR BIG BROTHER DOESN'T SEEM TO THINK SO

I BEG OF PAN FENG DAREN TO SPARE HIS LIFE.
HE'S AN UNCULTURED MAN WHO HAS NEVER BEEN TO ANY FORMAL SETTINGS. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT SCHOOLING HIM PROPERLY!
BIG BROTHER! YOU REALLY ARE...
I AM WILLING TO TAKE HIS PUNISHMENT FOR HIM!

SFX: PON (PUNCH)
碰
SFX: PA (SLAM)
I'M SPEECHLESS, PEOPLE THESE DAYS WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET AHEAD
GIVE THEM A SMALL PUNISHMENT AND FORGET ABOUT IT
THIRD BROTHER I APPRECIATE YOUR SENTIMENT
THAT DESCENDENTS OF KING JING WOULD BE LOWLY CAVALRY ARCHERS, I'D RATHER DIE THAN BELIEVE IT WHAT DOES EVERYONE THINK?

I HAVE NEVER DOUBTED YOUR POWER.
BUT HAVING POWER DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN ACT RASHLY OR ELSE IT WILL RUIN OUR PLANS
THESE PEOPLE'S POSITIONS WERE EARNED WITH BLOOD AND SWEAT.
SO THEY WOULD NATURALLY BE PREJUDICED AGAINST PEOPLE LIKE US
WARRIORS, CUNNING.
GETTING INTO THE TENT IS A GOOD START YOUR BIG BROTHER HAS THICK SKIN, GETTING SLAPPED AROUND WON'T KILL HIM.

SFX: PA (SLAP)
SFX: PA (SLAP) x3
WHEN WE WANT TO FIGHT, WE MUST MAKE HIM BELIEVE THAT WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.
WHEN WE CAN FIGHT, WE MUST MAKE THE ENEMY BELIEVE WE CANNOT FIGHT.
SFX: PA (SLAP)

HANZI! BIG BROTHER!
SUN TZU'S PHILOSOPHY IS FOR WAR. I USE IT AS MY OWN.
IF WE DON'T ACT CUNNINGLY IN THIS CIRCLE...

WE WILL NEVER REACH OUR GRAND GOAL AND SHALL FOREVER BE KNOWN AS ROGUES!
END OF CHAPTER 44

火鳳燎原

HUO FENG LIAO YUAN

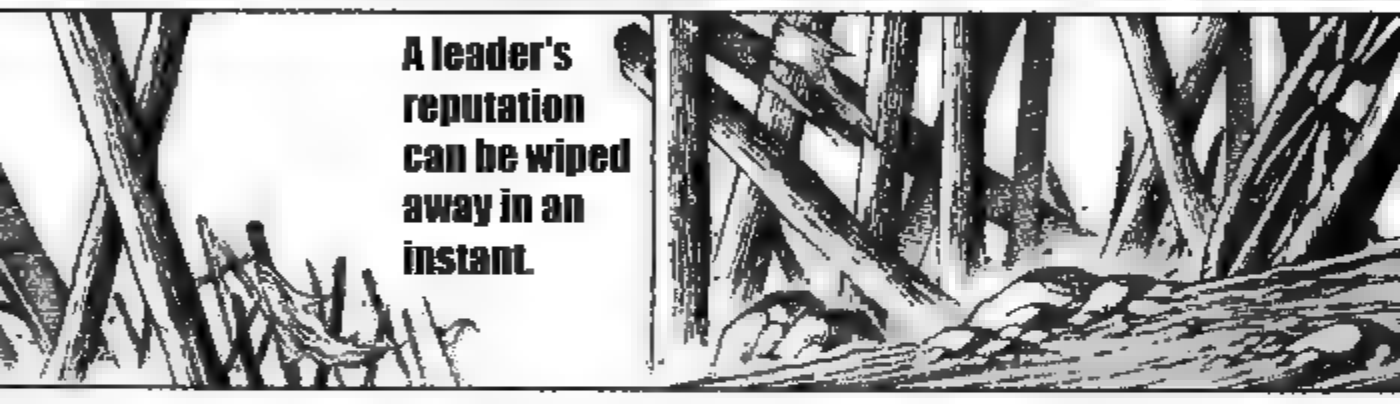
TRANSLATION NOTES

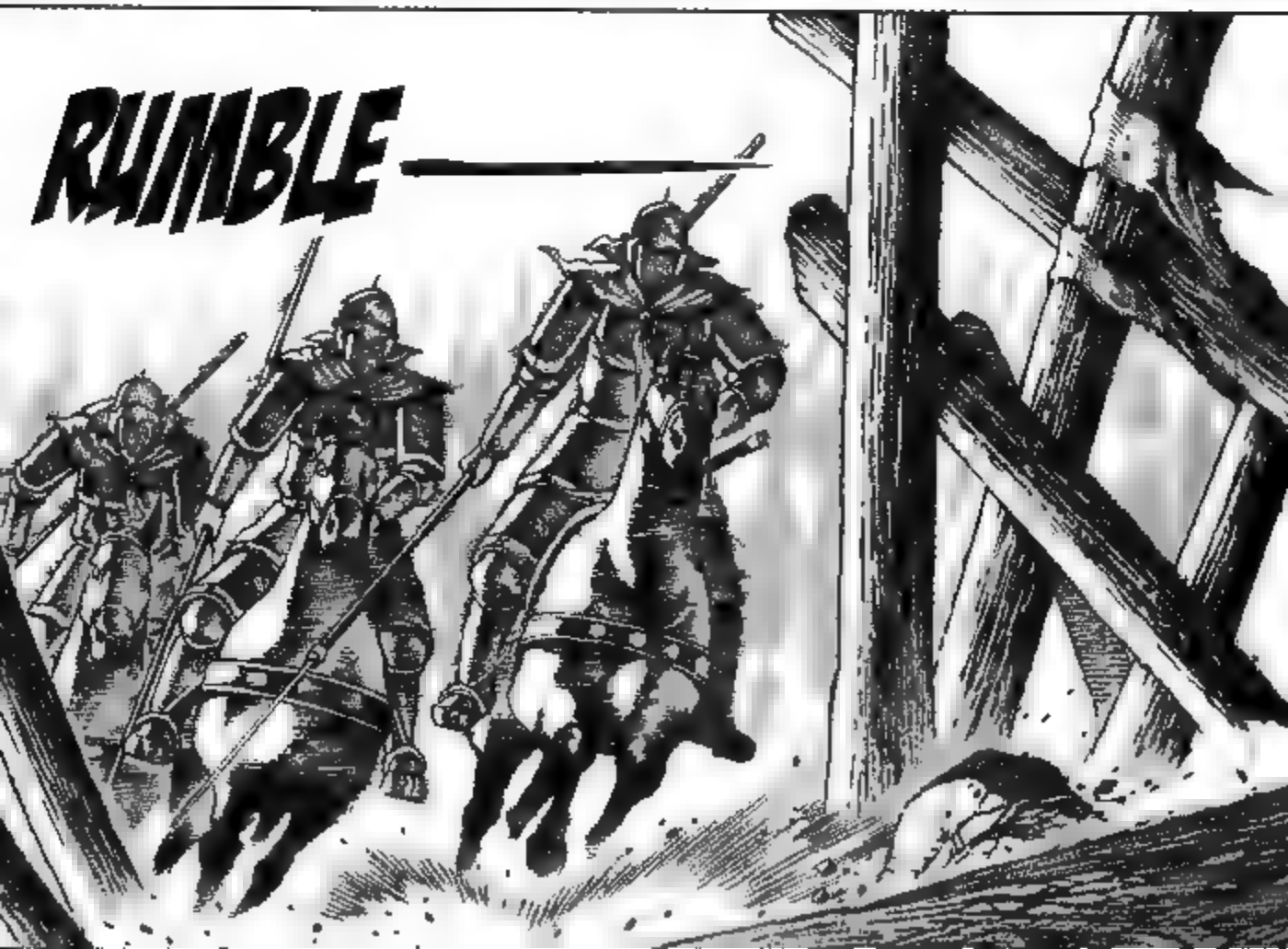
PAGE 51. "ALL WARFARE IS BASED ON DECEPTION..."
FROM SUN TZU'S "ART OF WAR" I. LAYING PLANS, LINES 14, 18-19.
CLASSICS.MIT.EDU/TZU/ARTWAR.HTML

PAGE 55. CHENG XIA YI JU ROUGHTLY MEANS "TO CONVENE UNDER THE CITY". IT IS LUU BU'S PLAN REGARDING THE MOVE FROM LUOYANG TO CHANG'AN. IT IS UNCOVERED BY ZHUKODO AND PROFESSOR WATER-MIRROR'S SEVENTH STUDENT (ZHUGE LIANG) IN VOLUME 3, CHAPTER 16. UNFORTUNATELY, WATER-MIRROR DID NOT BELIEVE SEVENTH BROTHER'S EXPLANATION OF THIS CRYPTIC PHRASE. SEVENTH BROTHER LATER SENT IT TO FIRST BROTHER (YUAN FANG) IN LUOYANG, WHO ACTED UPON IT.

PAGE 59. "BIRDS AND BEASTS WHEN BROUGHT TO BAY WILL USE THEIR CLAWS AND TEETH."
URBAN MANEUVERING: WWW.CLAS.UFL.EDU/USERS/RTHOMSBY/TAOISM/SUNTEXT3.HTML

Professor Water-Mirror's <<On Morale>> states, "War is a battle between soldiers' morale."


A leader's reputation can be wiped away in an instant.


RUMBLE

A Fifay.net Presentation

CH 45 LAUGHING TO THE TOP

HUA XIONG IS ADVANCING; REMEMBER THE MILITARY ADVISOR'S ORDER...
USE ONLY ARROWS; DO NOT GO OUT AND ENGAGE!
THEY'RE RETREATING ONE CAMP A DAY, DO THEY WISH TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH?
THE LAND IS TOO NARROW, IF WE GO ANY FURTHUER, WE'LL BE FORCED BACK BY THE ARROWS.
IS THERE ENEMY MOVEMENT AT HUWEI GUAN?
NOTE: HUWEI GUAN IS LITERALLY TIGER TAIL PASS
GENERAL, ALLOW ME TO GO GUARD THE PASS.
PERHAPS, WAITING FOR REINFORCE-MENTS?
THEY HAVEN'T FOUGHT IN THREE DAYS, ARE THEY SHORT ON RATIONS? OR...

REPORTING! HUA XIONG HAS TAKEN THE BAIT! HE HAS ORDERED SOME OF HIS TROOPS TOWARDS HUWEI GUAN!
GUANDONG ARMY MAIN CAMP
EXCELLENT. TAKE THIS ORDER TO WEN CHOU IN THE MOUNTAINS TO PREPARE FOR THE AMBUSH!
YES, SIR!
THAT'S RIGHT, ONCE HUA XIONG STUMBLES, LU BU WILL COME OUT OF THE GARRISON TO HELP THE ARMY IN THE MOUNTAIN WILL AMBUSH THEM AND WE CAN ATTACK FROM BOTH SIDES!
WE'LL SHAVE AWAY AT HUA XIONG'S ARMY AND TURN THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

NEWS FROM THE FRONT! HUA XIONG OBSERVED OUR TROOPS' MOVEMENTS ARE AT A STANDSTILL AND HAS ISSUED A CHALLENGE!
YUAN FANG GONG-ZI, YOUR PLAN HAS SUCEED-ED!
THE FOOL COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!
TURNED OUR DEFENSE INTO AN OFFENSE, FANTAS-TIC!
HUA XIONG UNDERSTANDS PROFESSOR WATER-MIRROR'S TEACHINGS WELL!
WHEN AT A DEADLOCK, VICTORY DEPENDS UPON TROOP MORAL.
DUELS COULD AFFECT TROOP MORALE. HOWEVER, IT MINIMIZES TROOP LOSS AND ALLOWS ONE TO RETAIN RA-TIONS.

YUAN FANG, I HAVE A QUESTION.
PLEASE GO AHEAD, UNCLE.
SEND FOR THE GENERALS!
HUA XIONG IS A GREAT FOE INDEED. BUT THERE ARE TWENTY CANDIDATES SELECTED FOR THE DUEL.
WHY DID YOU PICK SO MANY, UNLESS YOU DON'T THINK TOO HIGHLY OF THEM? ACCORDING TO THIER REPUTATION.
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU. YOU DID THIS ON PUR-POSE?
WE KNOW THE BEST FIGHTERS' SKI... LEVELS ARE ABOUT THE SAME, SINCE WE CANNOT LOSE THIS BATTLE, VIC-TORY DEPENDS UPON THE WIL. TO FIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT! TAKING TROOPS TO BATTLE WIL EXHAUST OUR RATIONS!

YOU... YOU'RE INCITING THE GENERALS!
THIS IS HOW YOU'RE BOOSTING THE WILL TO FIGHT!
WHEN TWENTY PROUD GENERALS ARE SUDDENLY PLACED TOGETHER, AND HAVE THEM COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR CREDIT OF VICTORY, THE RESULTS ARE IMMEDIATE.
THAT'S RIGHT! IF THIER REPUTATION IS AT STAKE, THEY WILL CERTAINLY GO ALL OUT.
ALSO, EVEN IF TROOP MORAL WERE LOW, THESE GENERALS WOULDN'T BE AFFECTED BY IT.
WATER-MIRROR'S GENIUS IS TRULY PEERLESS
USING THE GENERALS' PRIDE TO RAISE TROOP MORALE, FANTASTIC IDEA!
PEERLESS? IT'S FRIGHTEN-ING.

KONG YU DIREN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN
YOU'RE INSULTING THEM FURTHER BY PUTTING A LITTLE MORE 'SPICE' INTO THE MIX!
AMONGST THE GROUP TO DUEL ARE THREE NO-NAME CAVALRY ARCHERS
C... CAVALRY ARCHERS?
ADVISOR YUAN, THIS IS A GREAT INSULT TO THE GENERALS
TH... ABSOLUTELY ANGER THEM
TH... THIS IS TOO MUCH!

THE GENERALS ARE COMING
THERE SHOULD BE DIF-FERENT LEVELS OF ANGER.
SAA

TSIN
WHAT
WHAT
GREAT
KILLING
ALIRAS'

ADVISOR YUAN, PERMISSION FOR BATTLE,
IF WE DO NOT WIN, WE WILL ACCEPT PUNISHMENT UNDER MILITARY LAW!
DARENS, WE HAVE OUR CONCLUSION.
THIER WILL TO FIGHT HAS BEEN DRAWN OUT AND COMPLETELY UNRESTRAINED.
IN ALL MY YEARS IN THE MILITARY, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH GALVANIZED WARRIORS!
PESSIMISTICALLY, EVEN IF THEY WERE DEFEATED, MORALE WOULDN'T SUFFER AT ALL!

STRATE-
GISTS AND
ADVISORS,
WHAT SAY
YOU?
WE AWAIT
YOUR
COMMAND!
MORALE
IS AT ITS
PEAK; WE
SHOULD
ACT AT
ONCE!
LORDS, DO
YOU HAVE
ANYTHING
TO ADD?
YOU HAVE
THE COMPLETE
SUPPORT OF
THE ADVISORS;
THIS STRATEGY
WILL NOT
FAIL!
YUAN FANG,
PROCEED AS
YOU WISH!

GENERALS, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD AS WELL?
[YU SHE]
YU SHE VOLUNTEERS TO BE THE VANGUARD.

TOAST
VERY COURAGEOUS, I GRANT YOU PERMISSION FOR BATTLE!
THANK YOU, DAREN.
SAA

READY MY HORSE!
PING
BATTLE DRUMS IN UNISON FOR VICTORY!
DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG

HRAH
HRAH
HRAH
HRAH

THIS FEELING; IT'S LIKE THERE ARE ONLY TWO PEOPLE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.
WHAT A SPECTACULAR STAGE, I'D HAVE NO REGRET IF I WERE TO DIE IN BATTLE!
BUT, IN THE END, ONE MAN ALONE WILL STAND UPON THE STAGE,
THAT LEAD CHARACTER'S NAME WILL BE ME, PAN FENG!
THE GRAND STAGE IS SET FOR THE LEAD CHARACTER'S VICTORY BEFORE THE FINAL CURTAIN FALLS.

AREN'T YOU AS WELL, MA DAREN?
HA HA HA HA
PAN FENG DAREN, YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN ON YU SHE?

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND?
YUAN FANG NEVER GAVE US A CHANCE.
HE USED OUR LOW RANK TO RILE UP THE GENERALS

THIRD BROTHER, YOUR RASHNESS ALMOST GOT YOU KILLED.

YOUR BIG BROTHER HAS A WAY WITH WORDS, BUT HE IS ALSO GOOD AT READING PEOPLE.
BIG BROTHER IS RIGHT, THIS IS ABOUT RANK AND STANDING. WITHOUT IT YOU'RE POWERLESS!

START LAUGHING
YOU'RE JOKING; MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN HIT ON THE HEAD ONE TOO MANY TIMES?
LAUGH... LAUGH ABOUT WHAT?
TRUST ME! JUST KEEP LAUGHING,

WE'LL LAUGH OUR WAY TO THE TOP!
KILL

KILL
NO MATTER WHO WINS OR LOSES, IT WILL BE TO OUR BENEFIT!
THIS BATTLE WILL CHANGE THE BALANCE OF POWER!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SIS. CONDUCTING BIG BUSINESS DEALS IN THE WORLD...

ISN'T SOLELY THE EXPERTISE OF THE SIMA CLAN.

THIS MAN IS UNFIT TO DIE BY MY BLADE
NEXT! NEXT!
NEXT! NEXT!
THEY THEY HAD ONLY TWO EXCHANGES.
NEXT!

THE NEXT ONE SHOULD NOT BE SO CARELESS.
YU, SHE DIED BECAUSE HE UNDERESTIMATED THE ENEMY
HERE ARE THREE WAYS TO BOOST YOURSELF AND DIMINISH YOUR ENEMY
ONE: IF THE ENEMY GENERAL WINS FIRST DIMINISH YOUR ENEMY GENERAL AS BRASH AND RECKLESS.
YES SIR!
THIS IS PROFESSOR WATER-MIRROR'S <<CONFUCIUS>> YUAN FANG! DID YOU THINK THAT I DIDN'T KNOW?

BUT, THIS THEORY ONLY SERVES TO CONSOLE THE WEAK AND INEPT!
DAMN IT, I...

TSA
HOW DID I ONLY TRULY UNDERSTAND IT AT THIS MOMENT...
WA
TA

SAA
NEXT.
REPORTING! GENERAL HUA XIONG SAID THAT THE ENEMY IS USELESS,
THERE'S NO NEED TO RETURN, MY TROOPS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO PULL OUT.
HOW MANY 'NEXT'S ARE THERE LEFT?
HULAO GUAN

THINK SOMEONE WANTS TO TAKE ALL THE GLORY FOR HIMSELF!
FOUR IN A ROW, LOOKS LIKE HUA XIONG WANTS TO BREAK YOUR RECORD!
ZHANG LIAO, MY HEAD IS STARTING TO ACHE.

LUU BU, DID YOU SEE?
THIS THE TWELFTH.
CAN YOU?
NO ONE HAS ACHIEVED IT.
HUA XIONG WILL NEVER BE BELOW YOU!

IF NO ONE CAN MATCH HIM, MO RALE WILL BE DESTROYED.
NO, I THINK HE'S BETTER THAN LUU BU!
THAT'S... THAT'S TWELVE IN A ROW, THIS MAN IS LUU BU'S EQUAL!

GENERAL YAN LIANG IS NOT PRESENT, AND WEN CHOU HAS NOT RECOVERED FROM HIS INJURIES.

EVERYTHING IS GOING AS PLANNED, IF ONLY

THE OTHERS HAVE EMBARRASSED THEMSELVES; THE FINAL CHARACTER SHOULD STEPON

WE WERE JUST BOASTING, NOW WE'RE DEADLY QUIET, WHAT A JOKE!

MASTER, YOUR METHOD OF INCITING THE GENERALS DOES NOT SOUND TOO APPEALING.
BUT, LOOKING AT THESE WEAKLINGS AND THIS MESS WE'RE IN... HOW CAN I STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH!
WA
HAN DAREN, CAN PAN FENG DO IT?
THE FAMOUS GENERALS AREN'T JUST YAN AND WEN. THIS MAN IS A LEVEL HIGHER!

THOUSANDS ARE CALLING FOR YOU GENERAL PAN, BEFORE YOU IS YOUR STAGE
HUA XIONG IS JUST A SUPPORTING CHARACTER; THE PROTAGONIST WILL APPEAR ON STAGE.
AN INVINCIBLE GOD OF WAR.

LULI BU.
HOW BOASTFUL
LET'S HOPE THAT IT'S NOT MORE THAN THE TRUTH.
NEXT.

BIG BROTHER...
HE'S LAUGHING...
NEXT?
A FRIGHTENING LAUGH AS WELL.
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
SAYS WHO?

*XUAN DE'S LIU BE'S ZI OR COURTESY NAME HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/CHINESE?COURTESY?NAME

THIS "OPPOSITE" SCENARIO YOU'VE ARRANGED.
WHEN WE WERE NEAR LUOYANG WE DIDN'T FIGHT, BUT FAR AWAY WE'RE TAKING UP ARMS.
MEN ARE ATTACKING A SINGLE MAN, BUT A SINGLE MAN IS KILLING MEN.
WHEN RATIONS WERE APLENTY WE SANG SONGS DAY AND NIGHT WHEN WE HAD NO RATIONS WE COMPLAINED AND FEIGNED FORTITUDE
THE COWARDS ARE BOASTING, THE ABLE ARE GETTING KILLED.
WHAT THE MILITARY ADVISOR HAS ARRANGED IS ALL "OPPOSITE"..
THEN WHEN SOMEONE DIES...

AH
SHOULD I NOT BE LAUGHING?

MY LOW RANK WAS USED TO INCITE THE GENERALS
HOW DARE YOU! DID YOU FORGET WHAT POSITION YOU'RE IN?
DON'T FORGET, I AM ALSO A COMBATANT.
NOW, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY MY BIG BROTHER IS LAUGHING.
BUT, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SMILE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ARROGANT BOASTING?
THE DIFFERENCE S ABIL TY!
YUAN FANG, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU THINK HE SHOULD..
THAT'S RIGHT, THERE ARE OTHER COMBATANTS, WHY...

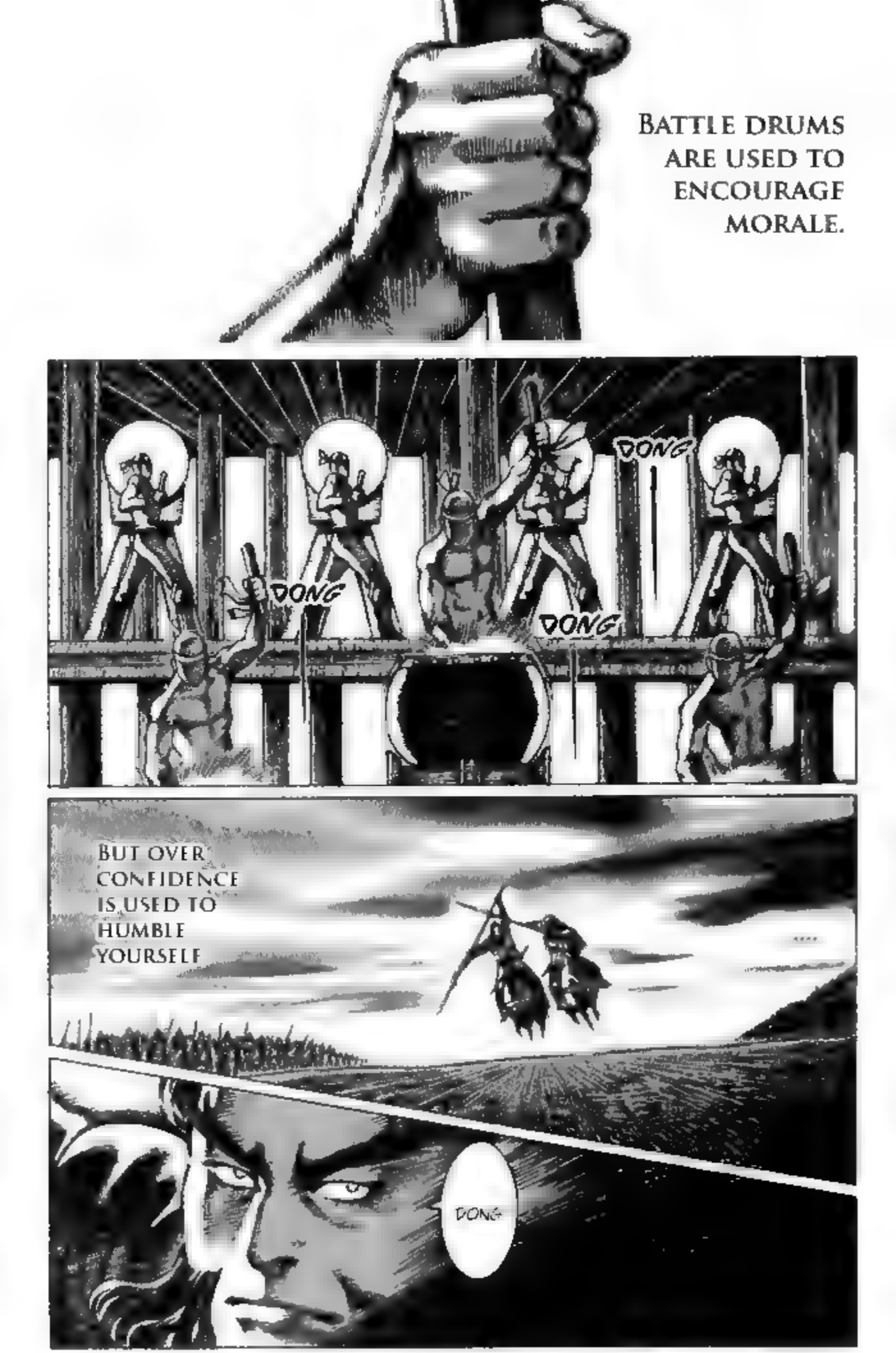
THEN TAKE DOWN MY BIG BROTHER'S HEAD!

BECAUSE WE'RE LAUGHING OUR WAY TO THE TOP.

AND THERE'S NO ONE LEFT WHO DARES TO DRINK THIS WARM WINE.

IF HUA XIONG IS STILL ALIVE BY THE TIME THE WINE COOLS,

I'VE ALWAYS HATED DRINKING; BECALISE EVERY TIME I DRANK, MY FACE WOULD TURN RED... WORSE THAN A MONKEY'S BUTT.


BATTLE DRUMS ARE USED TO ENCOURAGE MORALE.
DONG
DONG
DONG
BUT OVER CONFIDENCE IS USED TO HUMBLE YOURSELF
DONG

Chapter 46 Extreme Self-Confidence

Scanner Fifay
Text Editor Blackbird
Graphic Editor Bladedancer
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THIS IS THE TRUTH ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
WA
PON
LUU BU, MY PATH HAS BEGUN.

THE GENERALS' SUSPICIOUS STARES.
THE LORDS' AMBIVALENT EXPRESSIONS
THE SOLDIERS' ANTICIPATION,
ALONG WITH THIS UNPREDICTABLE GLANCE..
AND MY BIG BROTHER WHO DOESN'T CHOOSE HIS WORDS WISELY...

CH 47 HEAVEN'S WILL IS UNPREDICTABLE

I FELT AS IF THERE WERE A HUGE CONSPIRACY BEHIND IT ALL.
WORDS AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS DO NOT MATCH; THE HUMAN HEART IS UNPREDICTABLE. WHAT SEEMS TO BE A TYPICAL BATTLE SCENE HAS BEEN COVERED WITH A VEIL OF MYSTERY.

IT'S ALMOST CLEAR, BUT YOU DON'T SEE IT IN ITS ENTIRITY.
THE TRUTH IS LIKE THE SUNRAYS BEHIND A DARK CLOUD.

THE SO CALLED STAGE OF WAR IS NOT SIMPLE AT ALL.

AN AVERAGE CAVALRY ARCHER RIDING WITH THAT WEIRD STANCE...
I THINK IT'S SO HE CAN EASILY ABANDON THE HORSE AND ESCAPE!

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING?
ONLY HEAVEN KNOWS.
DOES MASTER KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS
WHO IS THIS MAN? NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE
ANOTHER ONE HAS COME TO DIE
WE MET AT THE CITY OF KINGS I REGRETTED THAT WE WEREN'T DESTINED TO FIGHT THERE

REPORT YOUR NAME.
ONLY HEAVEN KNOWS THE ANSWER.
SO THAT I CAN MARK IT IN MY RECORD BOOK!

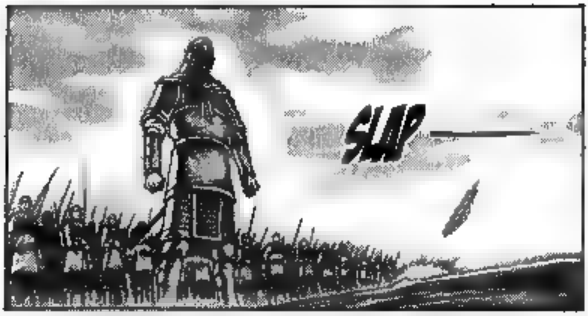
SLICE
HEAVEN'S ANSWER

HEAVEN'S ANSWER?
IS WHAT?
IT IS EVE PIERCING.
IT IS SWIFT.

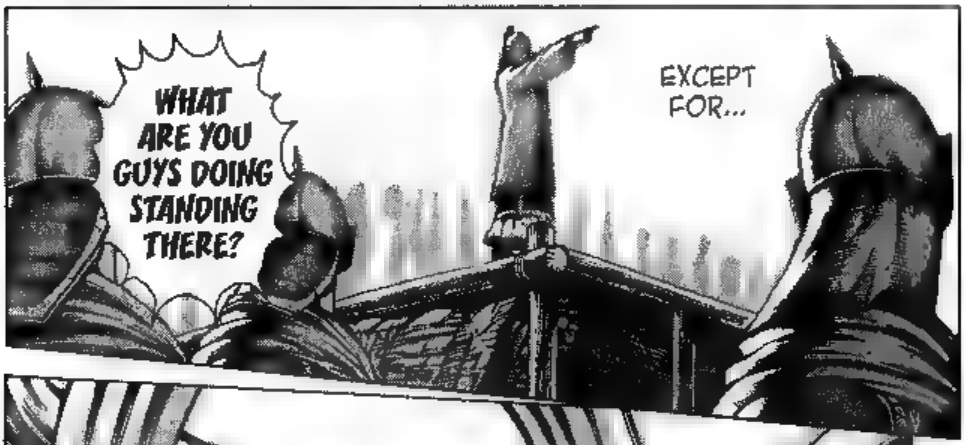
SLAM
IS IT DIFFI-CULT TO UNDER-STAND?
BUT IT IS STRAIGHT TO THE POINT!
IT IS JUST LIKE THIS!

HEAVEN IS
UNPREDICTABLE.

AMAZING!
AS IS A MAN'S HEART!
MY LIFE AS A WARRIOR IS OVER.
THIS IS THE ANSWER HEAVEN GAVE TO ME.



EVERYTHING HAS COME VERY QUICKLY.



QUICK! TAKE HUA XIONG!
EVERY-BODY GO!
MASTER! RETREAT! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF HERE!
QUICK! RETREAT!
THIRTEEN VICTORIES IN A ROW. A BRIEF MOMENT OF UNDERESTIMATING THE ENEMY, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN IRREVOCABLE PRICE!
WAS THAT THE ENEMY'S PLAN ALL ALONG?

MASTER, RETREAT! LEAVE EVERYTHING HERE TO ME!
OR IS THIS THE WILL OF HEAVEN?
DAMN IT!
WE'LL LEAVE EVERYTHING TO YOU IN CHARGE!
HURRY UP AND RETREAT!

RETREAT? EASIER SAID THAN DONE
THIS IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ENEMY FORMATION
KILL
MASTER! LOOKS LIKE WE FELL INTO A TRAP!
THE ENEMY HAS AMBUSHED US?

THERE ARE TROOPS TO THE SOUTH OF US!
MASTER! WE'RE TOO DEEP IN ENEMY TERRITORY.
I'LL HOLD OFF THE SOUTH SIDE.
MASTER! RETREAT!
?!

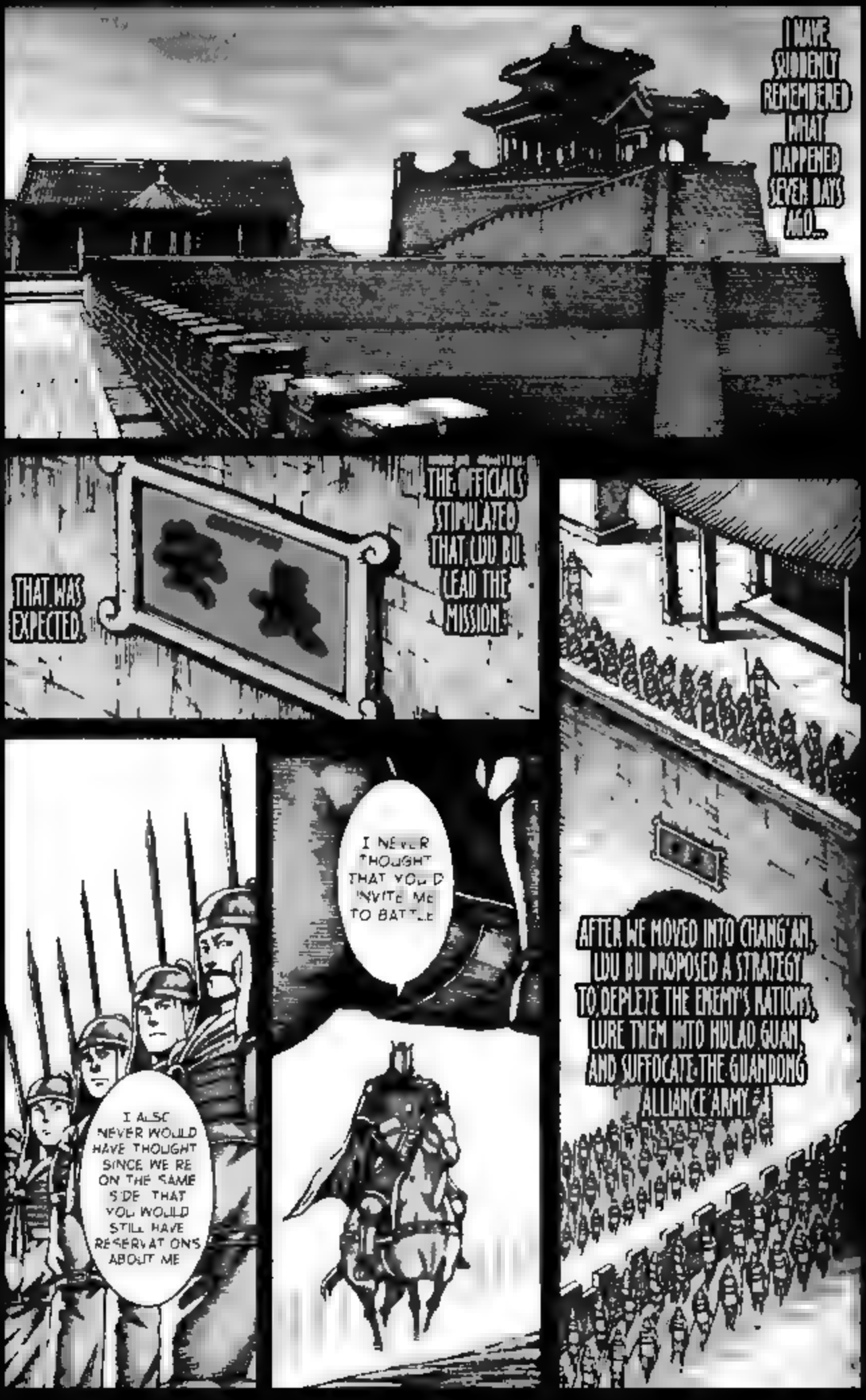
W...WHAT'S GOING ON? THE ENEMY IS RETREATING.
ZHANG LIAO! ESCORT HUA XIONG BACK TO THE BASE INFIRMARY!
TO PREVENT TOTAL COLLAPSE, ALL VICE-GENERALS IN HUA XIONG'S ARMY AIDE ME IN RESCUING THE TRAPPED MEN!

THE TROOPS' SPIRITS WILL DEFINATELY BE RAISED!
THE MARQUIS OF WEN IS HERE; THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN'T DO!
WHAT GENEROUS PHRASES
LIU BU, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS APPEAR AT THESE TIMES?
SHOULD I BE THANKING YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE...
HUA XIONG, YOU REALLY MAKE MY HEAD ACHE.
OR SHOULD I BE JEALOUS OF YOU FOR STEALING THE CONFIDENCE OF MY SUBORDINATES?

HEADACHE?
MY STUBBORNESS WAS CAUSED BY YOU,
THAT'S RIGHT, MY STUBBORNESS HAS RUINED OUR CAMPAIGN.
I REALLY ENVY YOU!!

ZHANG LIAO. THIS IS THE LAST TIME THAT I'LL BE STUBBORN
HUA XIONG YOU'VE MADE MY MASTER'S HEAD ACHE
NO, MASTER SAYS YOUR OBSTINACY IS MAKING HIS HEAD ACHE
SO TO RELIEVE MY MASTER'S HEAD-ACHE
I'M OBSTI-NATE BECAUSE I CAN'T BE KILLED?

IT'S BEST FOR YOU TO DISAPPEAR!
THAT'S RIGHT! HEAVEN IS UNPREDICTABLE...


I HAVE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED WHAT HAPPENED SEVEN DAYS AGO...
THE OFFICIALS STIPULATED THAT LÜBU LEAD THE MISSION.
THAT WAS EXPECTED.
AFTER WE MOVED INTO CHANG'AN, LÜBU PROPOSED A STRATEGY TO DEPLETE THE ENEMY'S RATIONS, LURE THEM INTO HULAO GUAN, AND SUFFOCATE THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE ARMY.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU'D INVITE ME TO BATTLE
I ALSO NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SINCE WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE THAT YOU WOULD STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ME

CHAPTER 40

THE WEATHER TURNS FOR THE BETTER

A PRODUCT OF PERMANENT MARKERS

WE WISH MASTERS LIU AND HUA A VICTORIOUS RETURN!
QUELL THE UNREST FOR OUR LORD!
HUNDREDS OF OFFICIALS ARE SENDING US OFF; THE ENTERPRISE WILL SURELY BE AUSPICIOUS
WANG YUN IS STILL AROUND?
HE ARRANGED FOR THE ASSASSINS TO GO INTO THE CITY FOR THE RESCUE
HE SHOULD BE EXECUTED
DOESN'T OUR LORD KNOW?

YOU MEAN YOU'RE COLLECTING THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ALL OF THE CONSPIRATORS?
IT'S NOT YET TIME TO ROOT OUT EVERYONE
GONG ZI IS INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION? NO WONDER I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM
INVOLVING TOO MANY PEOPLE WOULD TURN THINGS CHAOTIC. THAT'S WHY I'VE INFORMED DONG HUANG GONG ZI
YOU MEAN TO GIVE THE CREDIT TO GONG-ZI?
FOSTER FATHER IS BUSY WITH STATE MATTERS. I INTEND TO REPORT TO HIM WHEN ALL IS DONE
THAT'S WHAT A SUBJECT SHOULD BE DOING
BESIDES, HE COULD BECOME OUR NEXT MASTER!

CHANGE? YOU STILL HAVEN'T?
PEOPLE SAY LIU BU IS A RECREANT WHEN IT BENEFITS HIM. I AM BEGINNING TO CHANGE MY OPINION ABOUT YOU
THAT'S RIGHT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING I WON'T LOSE TO YOU
OH NO
GENERAL, WE FOUND ANOTHER BODY IN THIS WELL. THIS WELL.
SEAL IT!
MASTER! WAIT!
THERE HAVE BEEN QUITE A FEW DEATHS SINCE WE MOVED IN!
TREACHEROUS THEVING MINISTERS WE CAN STOP THEM IF THEY WANT TO DIE!

SONG XIAN
WEI XU
HOU CHENG
MASTER! YOU REALLY DON'T NEED US TO GO WITH YOU?
ISN'T IT TOO RISKY TO BRING ONLY SO MUCH IN RATIONS?
MASTER'S RIGHT, WE WORRY TOO MUCH
GENERALS LIU AND HUA WILL BE INVINCIBLE!
WE'RE GOING TO BE MOVING THE TROOPS AT MAXIMUM SPEED WE NEED TO REDUCE THE RATIONS SO THEY WON'T BE A BURDEN
BESIDES I'M TAKING COMMAND PERSONALLY DO YOU THINK WE'LL LOSE?
I'VE DELEGATED MY AUTHORITY TO YOU, GET BACK TO WORK
ALL RIGHT MASTER BE CAREFUL

SO DOES YOUR ZHANG LIAO!
THEY KNEW HOW MUCH IN RATIONS WE WERE CARRYING JUST BY THE FORMATION OF OUR TROOPS HUA XIONG, YOUR THREE GENERALS LIVE UP TO THEIR NAMES
ZHANG LIAO IS STILL YOUNG, HE DOES NOT COMPARE
THOSE THREE MEN ARE WISE AND BRAVE, THEY ARE VALUABLE TOOLS FOR CONQUERING THE WORLD
NOW I UNDERSTAND...
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF ME FIRST! HA HA HA!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DO YOU WISH TO CONQUER THE WORLD?
LUU BU'S CAMPAIGN AT HULAO GUAN WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE, THE REAL REASON IS...

TO GET RID OF ME, THE THORN IN HIS SIDE!

NOTE: LITERALLY, "NAIL/PIN IN THE EYE"

LUU BU WON'T KILL WANG YUN, HIS INFLUENCE WILL SOLIDIFY LUU BU'S POSITION IN COURT AFFAIRS.
AFTER I DIE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MILITARY LAW, MY AUTHORITY, AND THE THREE GENERALS ROU, WEI, AND SONG WILL FALL TO LUU BU!

ONLY THREE PEOPLE KNOW OF HIS SCHEME,
HE'S GETTING RID OF THE WITNESSES!
FIRST IS LUU BU HIMSELF,
SECOND IS ME,
THIRD IS...

DONG HUANG GONG-ZI IS DEAD, ISN'T HE?
THAT'S RIGHT. I DID IT. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOU.
ONCE I DIE, LIU BU WILL BE THE SOLE HEIR-APPARENT...
YOU'RE TOO SIMPLEMINDED.

I NEVER THOUGHT THE SEED WAS PLANTED FOR THIS DEVIOUS MAN TO ASCEND TO SUCH A STATUS IN A JUST A YEAR'S TIME
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M SIMPLEMINDED. I SHOULD'VE STOPPED MY LORD FROM TAKING IN SOMEONE WHO BETRAYED HIS FATHER
MASTER KNEW THAT YOU LOVED TO HOG THE GLORY, YOU COULDN'T BE PERSUADED TO RETREAT NOW THAT YOU'VE DIED IN BATTLE, MASTER WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE
LUU BU KNEW I WOULD NOT STAND BEING BELOW HIM, SO HE SET THIS TRAP TO KILL ME
I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT THAT EVEN HE HAD BEEN FOOLED
MY OBSTINACY MADE HIS HEAD ACHE, SO HE WANTED ME DEAD

HE USED XU LIN AS A CHESS PIECE TO GET CLOSE TO DONG ZHOU. BUT MASTER TRULY WANTED TO REPAY HIS KINDNESS AS A FRIEND
HIS PAIN AS A GRIEVING FRIEND, THOUGH USEFUL IN GETTING DONG ZHOU'S TRUST, WAS ALSO REAL
BUT AS MASTER'S SAID BEFORE, FRIENDSHIP IS FRIENDSHIP AND POWER IS POWER
UNLESS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN MASTER'S PREVIOUS FOSTER FATHER DING YUAN'S DEMISE?
IF XU LIN WASN'T KILLED BY THE HANDICAPPED SOLDIERS... HE WOULD'VE ENDED UP THE SAME AS ME?

WHO KNEW THE KINDNESS OF A FATHER AND A FRIEND WOULD END UP LIKE THIS?
THEN, DONG GONG-ZI HAS DIED; THE POSITION OF HEIR APPARENT IS NOW VACANT...
THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY...
PROTECTING OUR LORD AT LUOYANG, LUU BU HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS IRRESPLACEABLE.
UNLESS HE'S GOING TO IMMEDIATELY...

MY LORD!
YOU'VE REALLY NURTURED A TIGER-TO COURT DISASTER!

BEFORE THE GUANDONG ARMY FORMATION
THE HEADACHE, LIKE THE WEATHER, HAS CHANGED AND DISAPPEARED
THE MOST TROUBLESOME MATTER HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF EVERYTHING IS SUCCESSFUL, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS.

AN EXCUSE TO AVOID PUNISHMENT...
FOSTER FATHER, I'LL BE BRINGING BACK A FEW LORD'S HEADS TO COMPLETE THE MISSION!

THE GUANDONG ARMY'S REINFORCEMENT IS CHARGING TIGER'S TAIL PASS?
THEY'RE CLEARLY FLYING OUR BANNER.
TIGER'S TAIL PASS
THE PLANS CHANGED! HUA XIONG'S VICE-GENERALS IN THE MOUNTAINS, LISTEN TO ME!
UNLESS, HAS MASTER HUA XIONG BEEN AMBUSHED?

GENERAL LU ORDERS ALL TROOPS TO COMBINE WITH ME, ZHANG LIAO!

WE WILL ATTACK THE GUANDONG ARMY CAMP FROM THE REAR.

A REMARKWARRIORS Presentation

CH 49 BIG FISH SMALL FISH

VICE-GENERAL ZHANG, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? THE REAR CAMP IS THE MOST HEAVILY DEFENDED; WITH OUR TROOP STRENGTH...
PLEASE OBSERVE THE BACK MOUNTAINS
THE BACK MOUNTAINS? TH...THAT'S...
THE ENEMY IS PULLING OUT? WHY ARE THEY ABANDONING THE MAIN FORCE?
WHA... WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK?
MASTER IS RIGHT.
YUAN FANG'S TACTICS ARE DIFFICULT TO FATHOM!

There are three ways to deploy a strategy. One is a shot in a single direction.
The second is deployed on both sides in both directions.
The third merges many into a chain reaction.
OUT OF MY WAY!

PON
LU... LU BU IS HERE!
BACK AWAY... HURRY! BACK AWAY!

LU BU HAS BEEN LURED IN.
SOON AS THE TROOPS LYING IN THE MOUNTAINS RUSH OUT AND FLOOD IN, LU BU'S ARMY WILL BE DECIMATED. NOTHING WILL BE LEFT, NOT EVEN ARMOUR.
LU BU IS STRONG, BUT EVEN HE CAN'T ESCAPE THIS DEFEAT
SUPERVISE IN THE MOUNTAINS? WHEN DID HE
ARE THE TROOPS READY FOR THE AMBUSH? GO QUICKLY ASK ADVISOR YUAN!
YUAN FANG DAREN HAS GONE TO PERSONALLY SUPERVISE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
REPORTING! YUAN SHAO DAREN HAS ALSO RETURNED TO PERSONALLY SUPERVISE THE REAR CAMP
SU. PERVISE. .?

BROTHER GONGSUN, IT'S NOT YET TIME!
I WANT TO CONFIRM A HUNCH.
SIGNAL OFFICER! SEND THE SIGNAL TO THE MOUNTAIN!
REPORTING! THE REAR CAMP WAS ATTACKED!
THE ENEMY HAS US SURROUNDED!
THE REAR CAMP IS HEAVILY GUARDED; THERE'S NO REASON WHY IT WOULD FALL, IMPOSSIBLE!
WITH THE REAR FORCES GONE, OUR DEATH IS CERTAIN!

TH... THERE'S NO RESPONSE FROM THE MOUNTAINS!
NO RESPONSE!
WEN CHOU'S ARMY IS IN THE MOUNTAINS
YUAN SHAO'S ARMY IS IN THE REAR CAMP

WENT TO
SUPERVISE THE
MOUNTAINS

AS LONG AS THE MAIN FORCE HAS BEEN SURROUNDED, WHO CARES IF SOME OF THE FISH ESCAPE THROUGH THE NET?
Tak tak tak!
OUR COMRADES NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT WOULD END UP LIKE THIS!

THEN .

RETREAT! HURRY UP AND RETREAT!

NOT LONG AFTER THAT, FATHER AND WE HAD ALREADY MOVED OUT OF THE WAR ZONE.
I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D FALL FOR THE TACTIC OF GETTING JIS TO EXPEND OUR RATIONS, BUT YOU CAME UP WITH A BRILLIANT STRATEGY; NO WONDER YOU ARE THE HEAD OF THE EIGHT GENIUSES!
IT'S TOO BAD; SOMEONE MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAME

I PRETENDED TO STILL BE INJURED ONLY BECAUSE ADVISOR YUAN DIDN'T WANT ME CALLED TO BATTLE THAT WAY WE COULD PRESERVE OUR TROOP STRENGTH
PA
GENERAL WEN, YOUR HAND?
MY INJURY HEALED LONG AGO
THE COMBATANTS WERE WEAK; I ALMOST HAD TO CALL YOU TO BATTLE FORTUNATELY SOMEONE HELPED OUT BEFORE YOU.
TO THINK THAT IT WAS A LOWLY CAVALRY ARCHER WHO DEFEATED HUA XIONG AND NOT PAN FENG
HE WAS EXTREMELY SELF-CONFIDENT AND FINALLY SUCCUMBED AFTER THIRTEEN STRAIGHT BATTLES.
HUA XIONG WAS TRULY ONE FIERCE AND COURAGEOUS GENERAL

WHAT'S CONVENIENT IS, WE DIDN'T LOSE A SINGLE SOLDIER, SO WE RECEIVED THE "FISHERMAN'S BENEFIT
NOW THE ALLIANCE ARMY IS IN TOTAL DISARRAY. LU BU MUST'VE REALIZED YOUR CHARITABLE OFFER.
After it succeeds, there will be unlimited amount of benefits.
This is the third type of strategic deployment.
HAD WE CHARGED AND RISKED EVERYTHING, LOSSES WOULD HAVE BEEN HUGE, BUT WE WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
BUT YUAN FANG HAD US IMMOBILE FOR THREE DAYS, SO WE WOULD USE UP OUR REMAINING RATIONS.

*Chinese Proverb: "As a snipe and a clam are entangled in a fight, a fisherman catches them both." It means that all parties in a dispute may end up being losers to the benefit of others.

BUT THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP OF YUAN FANG'S PLAN.
THEN THEY MOVED BACK THREE CAMPS AWAY FROM THIS EASY TO ATTACK AND HARD TO DEFEND TERRAIN.
THE SCARIEST PART IS, BY INCITING OUR GENERALS, HE RENDERED OUR TROOPS DEFENSELESS.
NOW THAT OUR REAR HAS BEEN BROKEN, THE ENEMY HAS CHARGED IN; THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SALVAGE
HE TOOK THIRTEEN OF OUR MOST CAPABLE GENERALS AND SENT THEM TO THEIR DEATHS IN DUELS.

NO RATIONS, NO ESCAPE, EVEN NO CAPABLE GENERALS TO LEAD. OUR TROOP MORALE HAS BEEN TOTALLY CRUSHED
THE SECOND STEP IS TO HAVE JS FINALLY CLASH AGAINST LU BU HEAD ON.
AND THE THIRD STEP, WHICH IS THE MOST DEVASTATING,
YUAN SHAO ALSO DEPLETED HIS RATIONS, HOW IS HE ABLE TO RETREAT? THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION.
HIS BROTHER YUAN SHU IS NEARBY!

WHEN HIS ARMY AND YUAN SHU'S COMBINE AND MOVE NORTH.
HAN FU, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO QIAO MAO?
WHAT?
AFTER THAT I'LL BE BROTHER GONGSUN'S BEIPING AND THEN.
TERRITORIAL DISPUTES ARE NOT OUR CONCERN NOW
RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO DEAL WITH...
JIZHOU IS A WEALTHY REGION; YUAN SHAO HAS BEEN EYEING YOUR TERRITORY FOR A LONG TIME
SOMEONE WHO'S SCARIER THAN THE EIGHT GENIUSES...
LU BU!

L...
LU BU!
UNLESS...
THE FRONT CANNOT HOLD OFF ANY LONGER... WHERE ARE THE REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE REAR AND THE MOUNTAINS?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF AVERAGE PEOPLE AND USELESS GENERALS.
GENIUS YUAN FANG, HE IS TRULY AMAZING.
I ACCEPT YOUR GIFT!

I'D BE THE LAUGHING STOCK IF I SURRENDER, THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
IF YOUR ABILITY IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH..!
WHY BOTHER TO FIGHT?
YUAN QIAN DAREN, QUICK... ESCAPE WHILE YOU CAN! WE'LL HOLD OFF LUU BU!

POWER AND INFLUENCE AREN'T FOR AVERAGE PEOPLE LIKE ME TO CONTINUE FIGHTING. WOULD JUST BRING MORE HARM TO LIFE IN THE WORLD!
YUAN SHAO WITH MY BLOOD AND LIFE—
I TOAST TO YOUR CONQUEST!
ONE DOWN.

RIGHT! SINCE DEATH IS INEVITABLE
WE SHOULD DIE WITH DIGNITY.
THAT'S WORTH KILLING ALL OF YOU PERSONALLY!
THAT'S MORE LIKE HONOURABLE LORDS

EVERYONE, PROTECT OUR MASTERS TO THE DEATH!
FOOLISH LOYAL PEOPLE.
THIS KIND OF PERSON
I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE THIS KIND OF PERSON EVERYWHERE
PROTECT OUR MASTER; EVERYONE GO FOR IT!
LORDS AND SUBJECTS AM I A SLAVE? AM I A MAN

WHAT KILLING AURA; GIVE ME YOUR NAME
DAMN IT! YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF MY LORDSHIP TITLE?

ZHANG.
YI. DE.
OF YAN
Note: Yi De is Zhang Fei's
Zi name. State of Yan was
a state in the Warring
States period

A MAN'S LIFE IS TOUGH AND SHORT.
ONLY HARD WORK GETS YOU ASHORE, I SAY.
THE AVERAGE MAN AND CHILDREN MUST STRUGGLE
THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.
I'M NOT AN AVERAGE MAN.
MY PATH IS...
THE SHORTEST ROUTE!

GOOD MAN! WHY DIDN'T I KNOW YOU WERE THAT STRONG?

GOOD MAN! WHY HAVEN'T I EVER HEARD OF YOUR NAME?

CHAPTER 50

THE SHORTCUT TO FAME

SCANNER
TRANSLATOR
PROOFREADER
EDITOR

SFX: DAANG (CLANG) X4
噹
噹
噹
噹
THIRTY... THIRTY STRIKES WITH NO WINNER DECIDED?!
SFX: DAANG (CLANG) X3
噹
噹
THE ONE BEFORE JUST DEFEATED HUA XIONG, THIS ONE IS MATCHING UP TO LUU BU. ARE THEY REALLY CAVALRY ARCHERS?
BROTHER GONGSUN, YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH FIERCE GENERALS UNDER YOUR COMMAND?
NO WONDER YUAN SHAO SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR THEM FROM YOU WHEN HE ATTACKED LUOYANG!

IT IS BECAUSE YUAN SHAO KNEW WE WERE STRONG HE WANTED TO RECRUIT US
BUT MY BIG BROTHER SAID YUAN SHAO WAS NOT HONOURABLE, SO HE REFUSED TO JOIN HIM THUS YUAN SHAO ANGRILY...
YUAN SHAO KNEW THESE CAVALRY ARCHERS WERE THIS STRONG, SO WHY WOULD HE LEAVE IT THIS WAY?
DECIDED TO LEAVE US HERE TO OUR DEATHS BUT WHAT HE EXPECTS TO HAPPEN WILL NOT..
SECOND BROTHER, WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
CAVALRY ARCHER DAXIA! IS THIS TRUE?
大俠 DAXIA • HERO

I SAY IT'S TRUE, IT'S TRUE.
YUAN SHAO ASKED FOR US BECAUSE I WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE PALACE IN LUOYANG, SO WE WERE ABLE TO SNEAK IN EASILY AS SPIES WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULD HATE BEING KNOWN AS ROGUES FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?
DON'T YOU WISH TO REACH OUR GRAND GOAL?
YOU... YOU MEAN...
THE PATH IS LAID OUT IN FRONT OF US; ALL WE NEED IS A WILLING MAN.

BAIJIA! PLEASE HURRY. I AM AT YOUR SERVICE!
THIS WAY. VICTORY WILL BE OURS!
THEN WE CAN ATTACK FROM BOTH SIDES WITH BAIJIA LEADING THE CHARGE THROUGH THE CENTER...
BAIJIA, NOW THAT THE TROOPS HAVE THINNED; THE PAINTED FACE BAIJIA WAS PREOCCUPIED LIU SU.
THIRD BROTHER!
LISTEN TO ME!
WHAT?
AGAINST THESE TWO MEN, HOW CAN LUJI BU WIN? THIS IS A SURE VICTORY!

WHAT?!
LUU BU IS A STUBBORN OPPONENT, EVEN IF WE JOIN FORCES, VICTORY WOULD BE DIFFICULT!
IT'S A SHAME THAT OUR BEST FIGHTER HAS RETREATED FROM THE LIMELIGHT. NOW, IN OUR DIREST SITUATION...

HE IS JUST STANDING IDLY BY AND WATCHING!
SPLASH (GASP)
BIG BROTHER, ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE?

THAT'S RIGHT; IF YOU ARE VICTORIOUS, WE WILL RECOMMEND YOU FOR CHANCELLOR. NO, SOMETHING EVEN BETTER!
LIU BEI, NO! IMPERIAL UNCLE LIU, FOR FRIENDSHIP'S SAKE, IF YOU WANT ANYTHING, JUST SAY IT!
IMPERIAL UNCLE LIU, I'LL PLEDGE FIVE THOUSAND ELITE SOLDIERS, A HUNDRED THOUSAND BAN* OF RATIONS.
SEE NOTES

WHAT YOU'RE DOING MAKES ME NO DIFFERENT THAN A BANDIT!

THIRD BROTHER AND I HAVE ALREADY MADE OUR NAMES, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A TRULY POWERFUL MASTER. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FITTING?

EVERYTHING THAT HAS COME INTO THE POSSESSION OF EMPERORS WAS EITHER STOLEN OR SWINDLED

YOU BUSYBODY BRAT...

SO THIS IS YOUR CUNNING IN THE ART OF WAR?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY WEAKER?
MORE BENEFICIAL? I DON'T UNDERSTAND—
THE STRONGER THE OPPONENT, THE MORE BENEFICIAL IT IS TO US

WHAT YOU GUYS ARE THINKING.
DAANG

WA
I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE THING...
HUA XIONG'S DEFEAT, HAS GIVEN YOU FULL HONOURS.
I ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY...
LUU BU'S COURAGE IS SECOND TO NONE!
TOO BAD! THE TITLE OF GOD OF WAR WILL END TODAY!
BIG BROTHER!

*SEE NOTES

LIU XUAN DE IS HERE!

HERE

HERE TO DIE!

THE PAINTED FACE MAN WAS RIGHT.
THE STRONGER I AM, THE MORE BENEFICIAL IT IS TO THEM.
BUT CAN YOU GUYS DO IT?
DISMOUNT!

BIG BROTHER,
HOW DARE YOU SHOW LENIENCY TOWARDS LÜU BU!

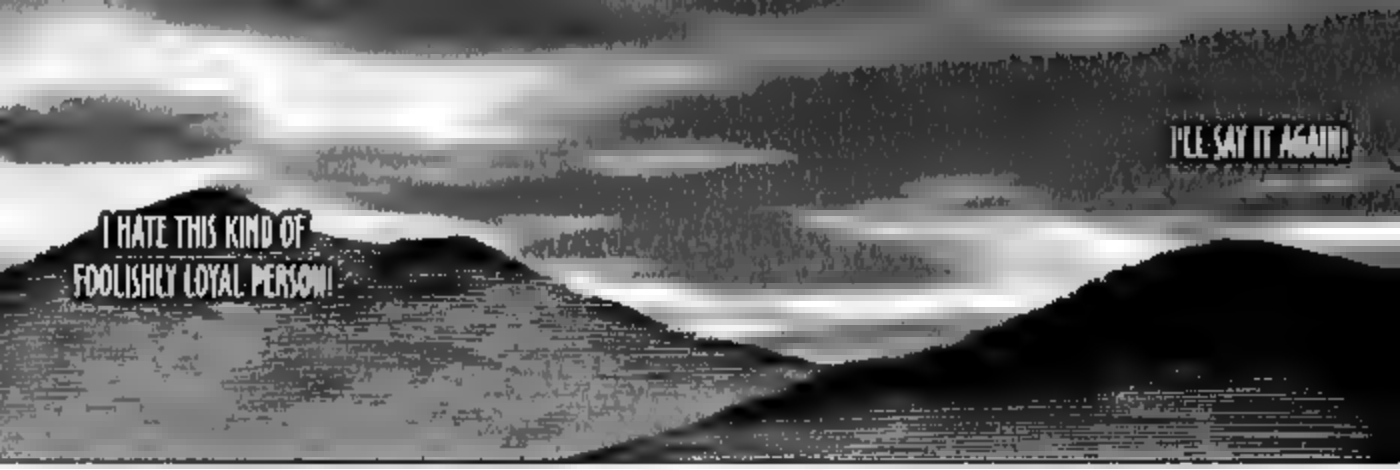
WITH YOUR SKILLS...
WHAT A JOKE!

YOU COULD DEFEAT LUU-BU IN ONE STRIKE!
PA
BIG BROTHER'S SECRET TECHNIQUE: THOUSAND LI SOUL SEEKING SWORD!

TSA
ONE STRIKE!
WARFARE IS BASED ON DECEPTION. WHEN ABLE TO ATTACK, WE MUST SEEM INACTIVE; WHEN UNABLE TO ATTACK, WE MUST SEEM ACTIVE...

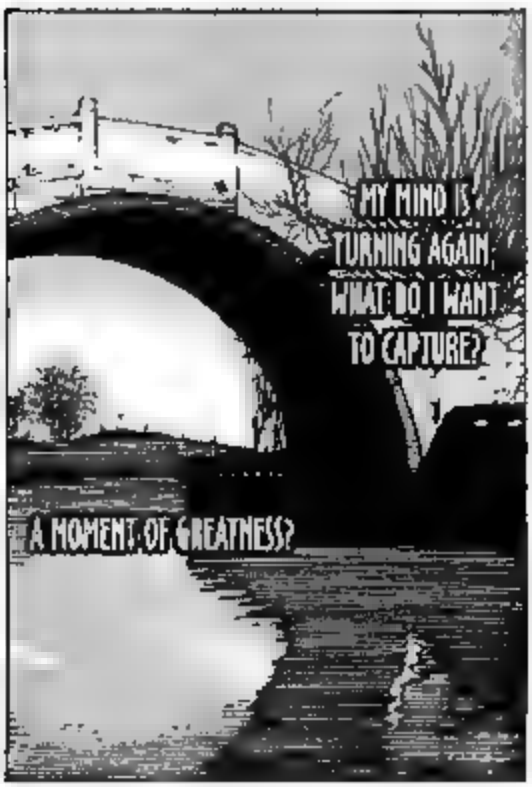
HIDING YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL FOR THAT FINAL SURPRISE!
ONE WHO IS SCHOLARLY AND MARTIAL, WISE AND COURAGEOUS. THIS MAN WILL BE THE HEAVENLY GOD WARRIOR!
YOUR CUNNING LIES IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE, AND OUR CUNNING LIES IN
BUT BUT WITH ME HERE YOU GUYS CAN'T KILL LIU BU.
EVERYONE'S WATCHING YOU, YOU HAVE TO MAINTAIN THIS HEROIC POSE

MAKING YOU, BIG BROTHER, FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE LAND!
BRILLIANT! DEFEATING ME WILL BE THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO FAME!
IT'S TOO BAD. THESE TWO MEN WERE WILLING TO FOREGO THE GLORY TO COVER FOR AN IDIOT. IS IT WORTH IT?


I'LL SAY IT AGAIN!
I HATE THIS KIND OF FOOLISHLY LOYAL PERSON!

THOSE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD ARE DEAD; THOSE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RESCUED WERE RESCUED.
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

OR A LONG-TERM BENEFIT?


MY MIND IS TURNING AGAIN. WHAT DO I WANT TO CAPTURE?
A MOMENT OF GREATNESS?

WEATHER IS UNPREDICTABLE.
CHOOSING BETWEEN THE RIGHT AND WRONG CHOICES IS DIFFICULT.

THEY DEFEATED LÜ BU?
NO WONDER LIU BEI'S NAME IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE STREETS

TOO BAD THOSE TWO FOLLOWERS DIDN'T KILL LÜ BU
YOU MEAN.

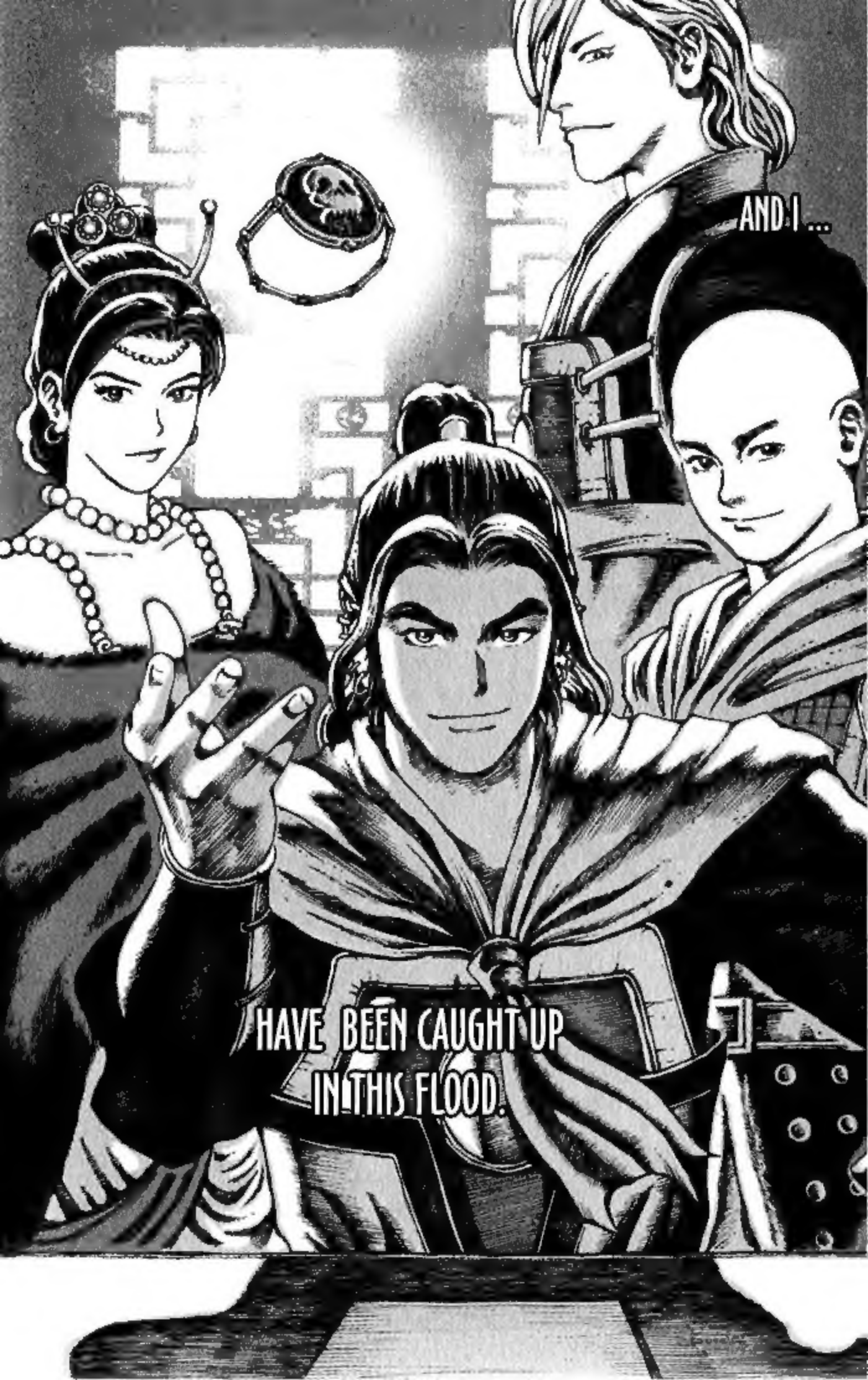
HE'S BECOME THE FAVOURITE AMONGST THE LORDS. HIS FAME HAS OVERTAKEN LÜ BU'S!
LIKE THUNDER ACROSS THE PLAINS, HE AND HIS TWO FOLLOWERS ARE NOW FAMOUS ACROSS THE LAND!

IF LÜ BU HAD DIED, THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED UP LIKE THIS.

ZHONGDA, IS THIS LETTER REAL?
THAT'S RIGHT, WE OWE WANG YUN TOO MUCH.
THE TRUTH IS IN FRONT OF US. WE REALLY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
LÜ BU KILLED DONG HUANG AND HUA XIONG THEN THREATENED MY KIN
LÜ BU IS DEMANDING THAT THE HANDICAPPED SOLDIERS KILL DONG ZHOU. ALL DEBTS WILL BE FORGOTTEN.
KOWTOW. WANG YUN

THIS MAN IS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GET AHEAD
AND OUR YOUNG MASTER IS NO PUSHOVER EITHER.

THE LORDS' POWER INCREASES,
THE EMPEROR'S POWER DIMINISHES,
AND THE GREAT MAN IS AT ITS END.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DONG ZHUO IS CERTAINLY DIFFICULT TO REFUSE
NO ONE IS CAPABLE OF RISING UP.
OR...
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT TO DO.
THE SITUATION KEEPS GETTING MORE COMPLICATED, MAKING IT HARD TO TURN BACK.
WHEN PEOPLE START KILLING, IT NEVER ENDS.


AND I ...
HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP
IN THIS FLOOD.

CHAPTER FIFTY

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 183

CALVARY ARCHER DAXIA

AS MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS, A CALVARY ARCHER IS A LOW RANKING SOLDIER. DEFINITELY NOT THE SORT OF PERSON ONE WOULD EXPECT TO BE CAPABLE OF DEFEATING A GENERAL LIKE HUA XIONG. *DAXIA* MEANS "HERO".

PAGE 188

IMPERIAL UNCLE LIU

IN CHAPTER 44, LIU BEI CLAIMS TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF KING JING WHO WAS AN EMPEROR OF THE FORMER HAN FROM 156 TO 140 B.C. THE CURRENT LINE OF EMPERORS ALSO TRACES IT'S ROOTS TO KING JING, HENCE WHY LIU BEI SHARES THE SAME SURNAME AS THE EMPERORS LIU BIAN AND LIU XIE.

PAGE 188

DAN

TRADITIONALLY 1 DAN IS 133.333 LBS. IN MODERN TIMES 1 DAN IS 50 KG OR 110.231 LBS.

PAGE 193

LIU XUAN DE

IN ANCIENT CHINA A PERSON'S NAME USUALLY HAS THREE PARTS: A SURNAME (*XING*), A GIVEN NAME (*MING*), AND A STYLE OR FAMILIAR NAME (*ZI*). XUAN DE IS LIU BEI'S ZI.

END OF
VOLUME SIX

三國群兵時

火鳳燎原

The Ravages of Time

6

陳某

火鳳燎原 6

編繪 陳某 東立